FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 MAY 1984

Lebanon

Arrested Israelis — The three Israelis captured by Syrian forces in northern Lebanon are part of a "terrorist" network established by the Israeli Liaison Office near Beirut, and although Israel denies that they were on a terrorist mission, "they themselves have confessed what they planned to carry out," Damascus radio announced. Since Israel has no diplomatic relations with Lebanon and every Israeli in Lebanon is a member of the occupation forces, members of the Liaison Office are "subject to pursuit" like all other soldiers there, the radio said. It also viewed U.S. actions to secure the Israelis' release as "proof" of a secret U.S.-Israeli agreement to use "terrorists" against Syria as a prelude to a "powerful military operation" for which Israel has already completed preparations. In a related report by Radio Monte Carlo, Syrian sources dismissed as "ridiculous" the claim that the Israelis were on a "picnic," asserting that the men were carrying military hardware, radio equipment, and maps, and had exchanged fire with the Syrians before surrendering to them.

Political Situation — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, speaking at a news conference reported by Beirut radio, confirmed his refusal to participate in Prime Minister Rashid Karami's cabinet unless a "reconstruction" ministry for the south is established. Birri said he had been "surprised" by Karami's announcement of a 10-man cabinet, as it contradicts the Syrian-Lebanese agreement to form a larger government with a "nationalist" majority.

Karami subsequently asserted that he "cannot possibly disagree" with Birri, adding that the government is interested in the problem of the south and is holding contacts to solve the cabinet crisis, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, speaking at a news conference in Jordan reported by Amman radio, described his meeting with King Husayn as "successful and positive," adding that their talks dealt with developments in the occupied Arab territories and further steps toward joint coordination, including moves in the international arena. The resumption of the 'Arafat-Husayn talks indicates that their dialogue is "serious" and could lead to a "joint move," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said. In a joint statement reported by the radio, the two sides condemned attempts to transfer embassies to Jerusalem and praised Egypt's stand on this issue. During his visit to Amman, 'Arafat also announced that the Jordanian authorities had agreed to release 46 imprisoned Palestinians, INA noted.

In another development, a PLO statement carried by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio blamed "Zionist intelligence agents" for the assassination of Palestinian journalist Hanna Muqbil in Nicosia on 3 May. The PLO will not allow these "murder gangs" to go unpunished, the statement warned. Yasir 'Arafat, on the other hand, claimed that the principal party responsible is based in Damascus, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The Fatah dissidents issued a statement in Damascus accusing 'Arafat of ordering Muqbil's assassination, the radio disclosed.

Israel

The security forces have obtained written confessions from suspects held in connection with the recent attempt to sabotage Arab buses and with earlier attacks on the Islamic college and mosques in Hebron, Jerusalem radio reported. Two brothers from Qiryat Arba' were the key figures in all these cases, the radio said.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn, during his recent meeting with Kuwaiti editors, said Iraq will intensify its siege of Khark Island, which will be targeted by Iraqi forces if such action is in the national and pan-Arab interest, KUNA reported. The Iraqi leader also warned Gulf states, in particular Kuwait and Bahrain, to "be wary of the foreign element," advising them to expel anyone who "casts his eye beyond his border." Iraq does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of the Gulf states, he said, but if "something happened" in Kuwait, the Iraqi leaders should not stand idly by. Regarding Arab-Egyptian relations, he said it is a mistake for both sides to remain "distant" from each other, adding that Egypt should resume its Arab League membership though diplomatic relations with it should remain suspended for "practical and psychological" reasons. Asked why his brother Barazan was recently dismissed from his post as chief of Iraq's security forces, the president said Barazan was not a plotter but was "no good for the responsibility of this post."

Libya

Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki sent messages to the UN Security Council, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League, and the OAU, warning of the U.S. Administration's "flagrant threats" against Libya, Tripoli radio reported. Asserting that the call for an economic and political boycott of Libya reveals the gravity of U.S. plans for aggression against the Jamahiriyah, the Libyan memorandum said this policy will have "destructive effects" on world peace and security unless international bodies take a common position against such threats.

Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus disclosed that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will arrive in the Syrian capital next week for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, KUNA reported.

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PDRY Request To Postpone PLO Meeting Rejected

JN040912 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 May 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — It has been learned that the PDRY ambassador in Damascus yesterday held a telephone conversation with Khalil al-Wazir, head of the Fatah delegation to the Algiers inter-Palestinian meeting. The PDRY ambassador requested the postponement of the coming meeting in Algiers which will be held 9-16 May. *AD-DUSTUR* further learned that Al-Wazir rejected the postponement proposal and told the ambassador the Fatah delegation will leave for Algiers as scheduled to attend the meeting.

Palestinian Journalist Hanna Muqbil Killed in Nicosis

LD031325 Kuwait KUNA in English 1256 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Nicosia, May 3 (KUNA) — Secretary General of the Arab Writers and Journalists' Union, Hanna Muqbil died Thursday afternoon from bullet wounds.

Fatah Opposition Accuses 'Arafat

JN031912 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The opposition wing within the Fatah movement issued a statement in Damascus this evening directly accusing Yasir 'Arafat of issuing orders to assassinate Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union.

Abu Musa Blames 'Arafat

NC031658 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union, has died in Nicosia, Cyprus, from wounds he received this morning as the target of an assassination attempt while driving his car in Nicosia, accompanied by his secretary, who was also wounded.

The Lebanese Editors Association mourned Muqbil, who was a member of the association.

Palestinian dissident leader Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] held Yasir 'Arafat responsible for the assassination of Muqbil. In a statement carried by WAFA news agency, Abu Musa said Muqbil was an opponent of the capitulationist line pursued by the 'Arafat deviationist leadership.

JANA: 'Arafat 'Hit Squad'

LD031521 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Nicosia, Shaaban 3, May 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Unidentified gunmen fired shot at the secretary of the Union of Arab Journalists, Hanna Muqbil and director of his office Mrs Raymonda Farran as they were passing by in Makarios street in Nicosia at 9:00 am today.

Mr. Muqbil, codenamed Abu Tha'ir was hit by three bullets on his neck. His condition is said to be serious after being taken to hospital.

He sustained similar assassination attempt in Beirut nearly two years ago when he defected from Fatah.

Fatah movement issued death sentence against him because of his opposition to Yasir 'Arafat and his clique.

Abu Tha'ir is a strong supporter of the leaders of revolutionary movement in Fatah who reject political settlements proposed by Fatah movement and its leader 'Arafat. It is believed that 'Arafat's clique are behind this assassination attempt on Muqbil.

Reports coming to JANA in Nicosia informed that 3 members of a pro-'Arafat hit squad were seen during the last 24 hours in one of the main hotels in the capital, Nicosia.

'Zionist Intelligence Agents' Accused

JN031818 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 May 84

["Text" of PLO press statement issued 3 May; place not specified]

[Text] The hand of treason and treachery committed a new crime this morning, 3 May. The Zionist intelligence agents attempted to assassinate Brother Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union and director of the Al-Quds Press office in Nicosia, as he was about to leave his home in Nicosia for his office. He was critically wounded. Raymonda Farran, secretary at the Al-Quds Press Office, was also hit by some treacherous bullets.

While affirming its strong condemnation and denunciation of these treacherous methods to which the Zionist intelligence agents and murder gangs resort and which reflect their inability to confront the PLO's correct course in its struggle to regain the legitimate Palestinian national rights, the PLO affirms it will not allow these murder gangs to go unpunished. At the same time, the PLO is confident that the Cypriot security forces will pursue the murderers and criminals, and will expose them and those behind them to world public opinion. It is a revolution until victory.

Cyprus Investigation Considered

JN080820 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 4 May 84 p 17

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Our correspondent has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday contacted the PLO office in Tunis and discussed sending a high-level Palestinian delegation to Cyprus to learn about the current investigations concerning the assassination of journalist Hanna Muqbil.

Syrian Journalists' Head Statement

JN031555 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (SANA) — Dr Sabir Falhut, deputy chairman of Arab Journalists Union and head of Syrian journalists, has denounced the assassination of Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union. In a statement here today, Dr Sabir Falhut said this treacherous attempt against Muqbil's life was aimed at Muqbil's solid, progressive, and pan-Arab stand of rejecting all capitulatory stands. He stressed the Syrian Journalists Union denounces this treacherous attempt, and that it will not scare the struggler Arab journalists or prevent them from pursuing their struggle to liberate Palestine and regain the Arab nation's rights.

Dr Sabir Falhut praised Muqbil's activities in the Arab Journalists Union; his rejection of all the capitulatory stands; and his continued confrontation of imperialism, Zionism, and their agents in the region.

Voice of the Masses Report

JN031630 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Nicosia —Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union, died from his wounds after being shot in the streets of Nicosia today. A responsible source in the PLO office in Nicosia has stated: So far, we have been unable to clarify the motives which made the killers shoot the Arab Journalists Union secretary general. The source added that Hanna Muqbil's secretary was also wounded, because she was with him when the attack took place.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, president of the Arab Journalists Union, denounced the criminal attack made against Hanna Muqbil in Nicosia this morning.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Vienna, Hammudi said the dirty hands that perpetrated this criminal act will be disillusioned if they believe that cowardly bullets can silence free and honest journalists and prevent them from freely expressing their opinion. He added: The assassination of the Arab Journalists Union secretary general is a new, striking example of the pressures and oppression being experienced by journalists committed to the causes of the homeland and the Arab nation —pressures which have reached the point of physical liquidation. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi is in Vienna to attend the international conference the world progress organization organized on the Zionist occupation.

AJU Beirut Office Statement

NC031212 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Regarding the assassination attempt in Nicosia on Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union, the Beirut office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Journalists Union issued a statement, which says:

Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union, was the target of a treacherous assassination attempt at 0900 today as he was moving from his home to his place of work at the Ash-Sharq Press Company in Nicosia, Cyprus. Muqbil was taken to a Nicosia hospital and he is now under treatment in the intensive care unit.

The Secretariat General denounces this ugly incident and calls on all Arab information media and democratic associations to condemn it in order to safeguard the honest Arab word.

KUNA Official Asks for Access to Captured Israelis

LD031214 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May (KUNA) — Barjes Hamud al-Barjes, president of the Union of Arab News Agencies, has sent a cable to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad urging him to allow correspondents of world news agencies and representatives of the International Red Cross to visit Israeli prisoners held by Syria in order to confront the Western media campaign which is actively trying to pressure Damascus. Syrian forces arrested three Israelis who tried to reach northern Lebanon last Tuesday.

Al-Barjes, who is also managing director and president of the board of the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, said in his cable to President al-Asad:

"Showing their usual bias in favor of the alien Zionist entity, Western media began to cover the news of the Israeli prisoners in a way aimed at arousing sympathy with them and at exerting pressure for their release, forgetting the large numbers of Arab strugglers who are in Israeli jails and experiencing the severest kinds of torture."

He added: "It is also very much regretted that a superpower, such as the United States, hastened to declare its concern for the three Israeli prisoners only a few hours after their arrest whereas it never made a move at any time to ensure at least the good treatment of thousands of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails."

He went on to say: "I urge you, Mr President, that the Syrian Government take the necessary and suitable steps to allow the correspondents of world news agencies and the representatives of the IRC to visit the prisoners of both sides and to draw comparisons between the Arabs' humanitarian treatment of Israeli prisoners and the terrible and inhuman Israeli treatment of Arab prisoners." He asserted: "We have before us a vicious enemy who must be confronted in all fields and with all weapons, including the weapon of information."

PAP Carries Abu Mayzar Interview on PLO Crises

LD031334 Warsaw PAP in English 1100 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Damascus 2 May — Member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee and its spokesman, Abu Mayzar, interviewed by PAP Middle-East correspondent Tadeusz Jackowski said: "The Palestinian movement has been experiencing deep, prolonging crisis, but I would not call it a rift within the PLO. The rift took place only within the Al Fatah.

Like Chairman of the Palestine National Council Khalid Fahum, I am of the opinion that in the present situation we all have aduty to fight for Palestinian unity, in new and difficult conditiors.

One of the major tasks is not to allow for the Palestine National Council to meet, because the rift would be confirmed at such a meeting. Within the whole Palestinian movement, on all the stages beginning with the National Council, there exists something which can be described as a mutual blockade. None of the sides in our conflict has succeeded in achieving the two-thirds majority necessary to adopt the decisions binding to all sides.

'Arafat has many supporters, but not as many as to make his line dominant. We do understand the motives of Abu Musa's group's activity but we do not approve of the methods. We do agree with them in criticizing some of the aspects of 'Arafat's activity, the aspects which aggravate the moods. On our part we want to peacefully and extremely patiently reduce differences, and introduce order in our movement on the basis of carefully prepared agreements between different organizations' PLO members. Just now we are choosing the lesser evil, which the crisis is, from the greater one, which a total and permanent split would be.

Judging from documents which we have, 'Arafat's group is not totally homogeneous. On the one hand, these official texts are full of support for the PLO leader, and on the other — of a clear will to establish contact and dialogue with critics. We can speak here about a slow evolution which we leave to the elapse of time. The road to unity leads through dialogue and slow mutual adjustment. We are operating under new conditions created by the removing of the centre from Beirut and a split within Al Fatah. The current situation in the highest leadership of the Palestine movement makes a broad consultation impossible, but such consultation is maintained at lower levels in both Damascus and Tunis. One must admit, however, that it is not a normal activity but clearly a crisis one.

Abu Mayzar went on to say:

Most certainly, developments in Lebanon, military victory in the Ash-Shuf mountains, West and South Beirut, and participation of the Palestinians in struggles against the Phlangists on the side of the Druzes and Shi'ites strengthened the position of Abu Musa's troops, attracting many young people to them. Politically, on the other hand, we observe certain quietening down of the main centers of this part of (?Al Fatah) and a switch over from "anger" to concentration on consolidating its own organization which is in firm opposition to 'Arafat.

The victory of patriotic forces in Lebanon and the abolition of the Lebanese-Israeli accord is the great victory of Syria and the Lebanese left wing but it is also a strategic Palestinian success. The abolition of the accord with Israel, in principle, puts an end to the U.S. concept initiated in Camp David and consisting in plucking out Arab countries by means of separatist treaties. Of now we can see some change in the attitude of King Husayn of Jordan. It is due to the physical fact of hitting the Camp David concept at a very sensitive spot of the Middle East.

Asked about his opinion on the so-called Jordanian option, Abu Mayzar said:

We are against resettling Palestinians to Jordan from areas occupied by Israel, at which Israel aims and is followed by the U.S. We demand recognition of our national rights, including the right to self-determination and our state. If King Husayn, Israel and the U.S. started to realize the "Jordanian option," similar developments as those in Lebanon would take place in Jordan.

Experience proves that aims and aspirations are homogeneous in all Palestine centres: The will to come back to the homeland and maintain national identity without the seal of "refugee," and with all individual features they are dominated by the sense of national community. The PLO spokesman has not ruled out that the Palestinians will come back to Lebanon. The PLO cannot depart from the principle that the Palestine presence should be manifested in every Arab country. The Palestinians are present wherever the struggle against Israel is waged.

As-Surani Says PLO Reemerging as 'Powerful Force'

LD031242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1103 GMT 3 May 84

[By J. Lancaster]

[Text] Vienna, May 3 (KUNA) — A ranking Palestinian official, Jamal as-Surani, Wednesday said that the situation in the Middle East was now ripe for a new initiative because the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has emerged as a powerful force in the region. In an interview with KUNA, As-Surani who is member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that the conference here on "Israel as an Occupying Power" has been organized by the United Nations International Progress Organization at a critical time in the Middle East and not just for Palestine, signifying the total failure of the policies pursued by the United States and Israel, passing through unreported crisis never seen before.

The same "transitory state" was being witnessed by other countries in the region, due to the Iran-Iraq war and events which took place in countries neighbouring Israel as also the recent steps taken by Egypt, he said. This represents the destruction of the last traces of Camp David, he added. The PLO has re-emerged as a powerful force on the stage, he said and described the PLO as a "phoenix which has risen again from the dead." He hoped that the conference currently in progress here would not be a simple "exchange of words" and said it has a "real responsibility and duty." As-Surani said: He wants to leave Vienna with assurances that real steps have been taken to educate the public in the United States, Europe and around the world about the current Middle East situation. He bitterly criticised the United States saying it has a "great deal of responsibility for genocide, torture and ill deeds" committed in the Middle East. He said he expected to see the emergence of far greater solidarity with the Palestinian people and their stand against "criminal offences of Israelis."

The time was ripe for the restoration of the right to self determination to the Palestinian people and help complete the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon together with maintaining the unity of Lebanon, he emphasized, and said that Israelis were embarrassed by the prospects of unity in Lebanon.

Ad-Dajani Leaves Amman for Damascus 2 May

JN031018 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 3 May 84 pp 22, 19

[Excerpt] Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, head of the higher council for education, culture, and science and member of the PLO Executive Committee, left Amman for Damascus yesterday after participating in the third Islamic civilization research conference that was held in Amman.

Voice of PLO on Results of Jordanian-PLO Talks

JN031749 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is continuing his official visit to Jordan. He met with Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat at the prime minister's office this afternoon.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar and Jordanian King Husayn concluded a 4-hour meeting yesterday interrupted by a working dinner. The two sides discussed developments in the occupied homeland, and the stand of our steadfast people there in the face of the occupation and its repressive and terrorist measures. The two sides agreed to continue supporting our people's steadfastness and presence on their national soil. They also agreed on the need to contact fraternal Arab countries to secure the necessary resources to enable our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland to continue their confrontation of the Zionist designs aimed at weakening their resistance against occupation.

In an official statement issued after the talks, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides affirmed their strong condemnation of any move that leads to further denial of the legitimate Palestinian rights. They particularly condemned the attempts aimed at transferring embassies to occupied Jerusalem. The two sides praised the countries that have adopted a clear stand by severing diplomatic relations with the parties that transferred their embassies to Jerusalem. The statement said the two sides stressed the need to exert the utmost efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war in order to enable fraternal Iraq to save its capabilities and energy for defending Arab rights and serving the principal Arab interests and causes.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Shawkat Mahmud, and Raja' ad-Dajani. For the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by: Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Brothers 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Dr Hanna Nasir, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and the representative of the PLO Executive Committee in Jordan.

Further Commentary on Talks

JN032057 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks between Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and King Husayn not only indicates the dialogue between the two sides is serious, but also that this dialogue could be broadened to the point of initiating a joint move. Of course, we do not intend to reiterate the historical and social bases on which this dialogue could and should be established. It is preferable to take a realistic look at this matter, and say: If the current Arab situation does not allow a fighting front to be formed through which the Palestinian struggler can achieve his intrinsic self, this does not mean the Palestinian should not define the minimum limits in accordance with available capabilities.

In other words, the Palestinian can create his own intrinsic fighting front, as is evident from the recent series of operations inside the occupied homeland and his effective participation in the resistance in southern Lebanon. However, despite its heroism and challenge, this front will still need to entrench its Palestinian, Arab, and international depth. In this respect, it is possible to name the following three prerequisites:

1. Reinforcing the steadfastness of our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland, and boosting their morale and capabilities. This is because these people are the fighter's most important fortress.

2. Achieving the minimum Arab stand through which the Palestinian and Arab can confront developments in the region, particularly with regard to the conflict with the Zionist enemy. In this regard, it must be pointed out that the enemy is constantly touching on Arab faults, divisions, and negative aspects. Consequently, an essential part of the Palestinian confortation is to create the minimum limits of a joint Arab move.

3. International support for the Palestinian fighter might be more coordinated and stronger than Arab support. However, in certain international regions such support is either nonexistent or the people in these regions would rather see the Palestinian enjoying partial Arab support.

Returning to our discussion of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, it can be said that Jordan has characteristics that make it a very important link in achieving what we have mentioned. A joint Jordanian-Palestinian move to reinforce the steadfastness of our people inside the occupied homeland will undoubtedly have a very strong impact in strengthening the psychological, material, political, and national cohesion of these people.

Thus, it is important to stress that the relationship that the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland have with their revolution and their national movements must not conflict with the historical and social links with Jordan. In fact, continuing these relations would help our people inside the occupied homeland to enjoy a positive atmosphere. The converse is also true, because the more these relations conflict, the fewer opportunities

there are for the steadfastness of our people and their struggle. This state of affairs could affect the Arab and international arenas, because the impact of a joint Jrodanian-Palestinian move to confront the successive developments and dangers threatening the two sides could result in positive Arab support and could paint a brighter Arab image in the international arena. However, the details of all this are undoubtedly the topic of the continuous talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. If the intentions are true and a deep sense of danger exists, then the results of these talks could produce practical and positive formulas.

Voice of PLO Reports Attack on Israeli Vehicle

JN031845 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are continuing their daring operations against the occupation despite all of its security precautions and measures aimed at containing and preventing these operations.

Our heroic revolutionaries launched a hand grenade attack against a Zionist military vehicle in Qalqilyah. The vehicle was destroyed, and the occupants critically injured. The Zionist enemy radio admitted the attack, but alleged only one soldier was wounded. The enemy radio indicated that the occupation forces cordoned off the scene of the operation and carried out an extensive, but futile, search for our revolutionaries.

BAHRAIN

Chief of Staff Receives British Counterpart

GF031132 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Manama, 3 May (WAKH) — Field Marshal Edwin Bramall, chief of staff of the British Armed Forces, arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi this morning on an official visit to Bahrain that will last several days. He was received upon his arrival by Staff Brigadier General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahrain Defense Force; and Mr William Tomkys, British ambassador to Bahrain.

Heir Apparent Receives Visitor

GF031441 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1308 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Manama, 3 May (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, today received Field Marshal Edwin Bramall, chief of staff of the British Armed Forces, who is currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign affairs minister; Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs; Brigadier General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahrain Defense Force; William Tomkys, British ambassador to Bahrain; and the delegation accompanying the British official. On this occasion, a souvenir was presented to the chief of staff of the British Armed Forces.

KUWAIT

Mirage Fighter Crashes 1 May; Pilot Safe

JN030705 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May (INA) — A Kuwaiti Mirage fighter plane crashed here the day before yesterday after taking off from 'Ali as-Salim Air Base. Reporting this today, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-ANBA'* said the pilot parachuted to safety.

UAE

Maldives President Leaves Abu Dhabi for Home

GF031549 Manama WAKH in English 1505 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 May (WAKH) — Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom left here for home this morning after a one-day visit. He was seen off by the director of protocol at the UAE Foreign Ministry Mr. Muhammad Darwish ibn Karam and other officials.

AL-KHALIJ Warns of Israeli Activities in Al-Biqa'

GF040800 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0620 GMT 4 May 84

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] Ash-Shariqah, 4 May (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* warned against the escalation of the Zionist enemy's military activities in western Al-Biqa' and on the contact line with the Syrian and Palestinian forces, particularly after the Arab Syrian Army captured three Israeli spies in the area last Monday. The newspaper noted that the enemy's sending of these three spies proves the credibility of analyses last month after the Tel Aviv and bus operations on the possibility of the Israeli forces' surprising attack against the bases of the Palestinian revolution forces in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley to drag the Arab Syrian forces into a battle whose timing and place the enemy will choose. Concluding, *AL-KHALIJ* emphasized that the duty of thwarting the Israeli aggression on the Arab forces in Lebanon "is not that of Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement alone but that of all Arab countries and the duty of every Arab citizen from the ocean to the Gulf."

Briefs

Economic Protocol With UK — Dubayy, 3 May (WAKH) — A British economic delegation has concluded a visit to the UAE by signing a protocol for economic cooperation with the UAE. The purpose of the protocol is to reactivate British exports to the UAE as they have dropped considerably in recent years. [Excerpt] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 May 84 GF]

PDRY

Chairman Receives YAR Education Minister

GF031331 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office at the YSP Central Committee Secretariat this afternoon Brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahad al-'Aziz al-Zindani, minister of education in the northern part of the homeland, in the presence of Dr Hasan Ahmad As-Sallami, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of education. During the meeting, Brother 'Ali Nasir listened to a detailed report from the education ministers on the result of the second session of the joint committee for education for the two parts of the homeland, which was held in Aden. The brother secretary general praised the efforts the committee has made to implement the resolutions adopted by the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland in the field of education. He affirmed the need for continued implementation of the rest of resolutions in this area.

YAR

President Receives Message From Reagan

GF031812 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received this morning Mr David Zweifel, U.S. ambassador in San'a', who delivered to him a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan, on bilateral relations.

Ghali Supports New Lebanese Government

NC031229 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning received Sami Marun, envoy of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, who delivered a message of friendship and good wishes from the Lebanese president.

Dr Ghali reviewed with the Lebanese envoy the assumption of power by the new Lebanese Government under Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Ghali expressed Egypt's support for the important step toward national reconciliation that the government represents. He also affirmed Egypt's welcome for this significant development and its hope that the new government's efforts will bring national unity and independence to Lebanon as well as sovereignty over all its territories.

Views U.S. Policy, USSR

NC031807 Cairo MENA in English 1725 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, May 3 (MENA) — Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali stressed the need today for a rapid move for bringing about solutions, through negotiations, to the problems facing the Arab nation namely problems of Lebanon, the Palestinian cause and the Gulf war to avoid the explosion of the situation.

Interviewed by Saudi magazine *AL-JAZIRAH* Dr. Ghali said Egypt is in direct contact with the Palestinian, the Jordanian, the Lebanese leaderships, the United States, France and the EEC member-states to help consolidate peace efforts in the region.

Dr Ghali welcomed every faithful effort exerted to help stop blood shed and erase tension in the region, expressing belief that Saudi Arabia could also play a more effective role if the parties concerned expressed readiness to cooperate for resolving these problems.

Dr. Ghali paid tribute to West Europe's role in the Middle East issue, citing its call for reciprocal recognition between the Palestinians and Israelis, for PLO participation in the peace process, and for stoppage of the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands. These stances, he added, have an effect on Israeli, European and American public opinion and they point up Israeli responsibility.

About King Husayn's criticism of the United States position in favour of Israel, Dr. Ghali said "I respect King Husayn's views and experience. There are some aspects of U.S. Middle East policy which are not clear and which are not stable enough. We say this frankly in our contacts with the American Administration with the aim of persuading the United States to undertake more efforts for a comprehensive peace, and not for the purpose of putting the United States off the peace efforts."

Dr. Ghali said Egypt has not yet been able to persuade the United States to enter into American-Palestinian dialogue, but it has not given up.

About the Soviet Union, Ghali said it can contribute to the Middle East peace efforts if it takes a constructive attitude, but it cannot replace the United States in this field.

About recent developments in the Sudan, Ghali said the Sudanese are ready to settle any internal differences by negotiation, and the main thing is that there should be no foreign interference in a bid to exploit the situation.

'Ali Comments on Arab, Superpower Ties

PM031621 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 May 84 pp 27-28

[Interview with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by 'Afaf Zayn in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpts] On the question of military aid for Sudan we asked the Egyptian minister whether the aid would be limited to modern equipment and technology only, or would also include the dispatch of Egyptian Armed Forces units to Sudan. It has recently been reported by more than one source that Egyptian Army units have already been deployed in northern Sudan to free Sudanese forces to put down disturbances in the south.

'Ali replied: "Sudan actually does not need manpower to defend itself. What matters is the exchange of expertise, of which Egypt has plenty in the fields of both air defense and combat. Egypt has 30 years of experience, gained in four wars. Egypt also has modern weapons. Transfer of expertise is what matters. There is no need to send troops."

Asked about numerous reports on the deployment of Egyptian and other forces in Sudan, the Egyptian minister said: "There are no Egyptian or other forces in Sudan. Sudan does not need manpower. Its own manpower capabilities are quite adequate. The reports about Egyptian forces and a U.S. airlift are unfounded."

U.S.-Arab relations recently have been stormy, and there are signs of some change in the Arab affection for the United States. Some Arab states known to have special relations with the United States have recently threatened to purchase arms from the Soviet Union. The settlement policy, which is encouraged by Washington's silence, and the question of the transfer of foreign embassies to Jerusalem are quickly draining Arab affection for the United States. All these are indications that the Arabs are on the verge of taking a certain stand toward Washington. Will these developments make Washington change its policy in the Middle East? Dealing with all this, the Egyptian minister said: "Without doubt U.S.-Arab relations are always the subject of oneupmanship among the candidates in an election year. Their aim is to win the Jewish vote and Israel's confidence. That is why these relations suffer violent tremors. This time these tremors have had a most severe effect on Arab awareness, because some congressmen want to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. To protect U.S. interests, the U.S. Administration has taken a firm stand against Congress on this matter."

Referring to Washington's silence about the building of settlements — there are plans to build 30 settlements this year —

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: "The settlement issue is no less important than the Jerusalem issue. The building of settlements is undoubtedly illegal and obstructs peace in the Middle East. That is why Jordan has appealed for U.S. guarantees. The disagreement between the United States and the Arabs is over the settlements. In my view there are two aspects to that issue: the aspect of Israeli intransigence on the question of settlements, and the aspect of what is going on between the Palestinians and King Husayn. The questions of the embassy transfer and the building of settlements are being exploited in this oneupmanship in the U.S. election campaign. They are also two important and vital factors affecting the Arab world's attitude to the United States and its policy in the Arab region."

In view of the Egyptian foreign minister's analysis of the U.S. policy changes in this election year as a result of the candidates' race to please Israel, we asked him if this meant that Egypt intends to delay the restoration of its diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. He said: "I want to draw a line between Egypt's position on the question of the Soviet ambassador's return or the Egyptian ambassador's return, and the moves of other Arab states to which you referred in one of your questions. Egypt's foreign policy is based on balanced relations and on having relations with all states. The Soviet Union is undoubtedly a superpower and we believe, accordingly, that one day the Egyptian ambassador will return to Moscow and the Soviet ambassador will return to Cairo."

Referring to Kolpakov's [as published] visit to Cairo, the Egyptian minister said: "Kolpakov's visit to Egypt was made at his request as head of the Middle East Department [presumably Near East Countries Department] of the Soviet Foreign Ministry for the purpose of holding contacts with some Egyptian officials as part of the dialogue and consultations that have been going on between the two countries for years. There is nothing new in that. There are economic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and there is a Soviet Embassy in Cairo. Egypt's relations with Washington are one thing and its relations with the Soviet Union are quite another. Egypt's aim is to have balanced relations with the two superpowers and still maintain its special relations with Washington."

Asked whether the timing of Kolpakov's visit to Cairo had anything to do with the tension in U.S.-Egyptian relations, the Egyptian minister said: "Our relations with the United States do not mean that we cannot agree or disagree with it on many things. The question of Egyptian-Soviet relations has nothing to do with U.S.-Egyptian relations. The United States is not the only one present in the Arab region. There are the region's states themselves, and there are other superpowers."

Asked how much Egypt has benefited from the U.S. experience in the region in reshaping its policy toward the states of the region and the other superpowers, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: "On the issue of Lebanon, it is now clear that Syria and the Soviet Union have managed to impede U.S. moves to promote a settlement in Lebanon. On the other hand, Israel also managed to foil attempts to reach a settlement in Lausanne. In regard to Kuwait's turning to the Soviet Union for arms, there is no doubt that this is a result of U.S. electioneering and the oneupmanship in the United States over the question or providing Jordan and other Arab states with the arms they need to defend themselves. These states are free to seek arms from any side willing to give them."

There is for the first time a general Arab consensus, without prior agreement, on one thing, which is disenchantment with U.S. policy in the region. Many voices are being raised in most Arab countries in protest against Washington's neglect of legitimate Arab rights. We therefore asked the Egyptian minister if this consensus would lead to a minimum degree of unified Arab attitude. Hereplied: "If Arab unanimity depends on such matters, then that is an Arab shortcoming, because there are many reasons why the Arabs should have a unified strategy and minimum agreement. I cannot imagine that the failure to supply the Arabs with arms and the Congress' threat to move the U.S. Embassy are the only danger signs which warrant Arab agreement. The danger lies basically in the issues over which the Arabs disagree. That is why there is a need for Arab solidarity and a unified strategy. However, I regretfully say that the changing mood of the U.S. Administration in this election year is the factor that will trigger Arab awareness of the common fate and danger threatening them. Were the attack on the Iraqi reactor, the annexation of the Golan heights, the issue of Jerusalem, and the invasion of Lebanon not reasons enough for Arab reunion and solidarity?

Khalil Analyzes Regional Relations, Peace Plans

PM031304 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 May 84p 3

[Interview with Mustafa Khalil, former prime minister and NDP deputy chairman, with *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* bureau in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: How far has the peace process progressed since the deterioration in Egyptian-Israeli relations?

Answer: In my view the fundamental thing is to establish peace and maintain natural relations. With regard to Egypt and Israel, relations between them are in accordance with the general rules of international relations. Points of agreement or disagreement in countries' foreign policies depend on the special conditions of each country. The Israeli Government is responsible for the lukewarm relations between Egypt and Israel. Israel violated the Camp David agreement by applying Israeli laws in East Jerusalem and the Golan and later by invading Lebanon.

Question: Do you agree with the term "cool peace" to describe the present state of Egyptian-Israeli peace? Who coined this term? Some say it was an Egyptian minister and others say it was an Israeli official?

Answer: The term "cool peace" was coined by David Kimche, the Israeli Foreign Ministry director, as an expression of disappointment over the failure to achieve what the Israelis expected from the peace process with Egypt.

But in this regard Kimche ignores the reactions to the policies Israel is pursuing and which Egypt rejects because they violate the Camp David agreement in letter and spirit.

Question: Do you believe that a new Israeli Government under the Labor Party, which is now in opposition, will adopt a different attitude toward relations with Egypt?

Answer: I would not say this, so it cannot be said that we interfere in their domestic affairs. Egypt does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country, not even the affairs of a sisterly country. Nevertheless, I would say that matters are clear to the Israelis. Any government that comes to office should know well the Egyptian views in the relationship with Israel.

Question: Some observers believe that the Israeli Labor Party is more flexible in dealing with the Palestinian problem. They refer in particular to the Labor Party's acceptance of the principle of "the Jordanian solution" which has recently come to the forefront following the departure of 'Arafat and his forces from Tripoli. What is your opinion of this analysis?

Answer: The idea of "the Jordanian solution" in fact involves three principal parties: Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel. But other parties are concerned with this solution and their attitude affects it; most important of these are Egypt and Syria.

Question: Can you sum up for us the essential differences between the Egyptian and Syrian stands at present?

Answer: The difference is that Egypt supports any agreement between the parties concerned to sit at the negotiating table. Egypt does not stipulate that negotiations should be on the basis of specific conditions; rather it accepts what the parties accept, be it negotiations on the basis of Fes plan, the Reagan initiative, the Egyptian-French plan, Camp David, or the Venice Declaration.

As for the Syrian stand, it is different because Syria does not accept solving the Palestinian problem without solving the Golan problem. For this reason talk about "the Jordanian solution" should be within a more comprehensive plan that includes a solution for the Golan problem.

Question: How do you see the future of relations between Cairo and Damascus?

Answer: I believe that the matter is up to Syria to determine without interfering in Egyptian sovereignty or dictating conditions to us. If Syria refuses to allow any one to dictate conditions to it, it should also try not to dictate conditions to others. I believe that the Syrian leadership has recently begun to realize this, which must be a cause for optimism. The Syrian role is very important in resolving the Middle East crisis.

U.S. Should Note Mubarak Remarks on Jerusalem

NC040603 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0420 GMT 4 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Egypt, Jerusalem, and Adherence to Principles", *AL-JUMHURIYAH*'s editorial notes the international, and particularly U.S., newspapers' interest in President Mubarak's May Day speech. Mubarak said Egypt will break off relations with any country that transfers its embassy to Jerusalem, since this gives international legality to the Israeli occupation of the holy city. The paper notes that President Mubarak's firm and committed stand follows the outbiddings in the U.S. political scene to satisfy Israel and gain its favor without taking Arab rights into consideration.

The paper says that although we recognize there is a special relationship between Egypt and the United States, and that Egypt receives U.S. aid exceeding $2 billion annually, this does not prevent Egypt from adhering to its national, Arab, and Islamic responsibilities. There can be no bargains over principles and rights. Concluding its editorial, the papers expresses the hope that the United States has gotten Egypt's message.

MAY Says Ties with Israel To 'Remain Frozen'

PM031221 Cairo MAY in Arabic 29 Apr 84 p 2

[Lutfi 'Abd al-Qadir article: "Israeli Affairs"]

[Text] In his speech on the second anniversary of the liberation of Sinai, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak gave some significant and meaningful indirect signals on the air to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the other Israeli hawks. These signals throw some light on the direction of Egypt's policy in the coming crucial and decisive phase.

Despite these signals, however, Shamir has been playing the same tune that has lost its value and substance because it has been repeated so many times and because it has been proven to be false. He said his country wants to improve what he called its cool relations with Egypt, but the latter has shown no indication that it wants the same thing because Egypt wants to regain its leading role in the Arab world. Shamir also said that Israel paid a high price for peace with Egypt when it withdrew from Sinai and that the Israeli people expect real peace from Egypt. This denotes that Shamir did not grasp the meaning and significance of these signals, or that he chose to ignore them because they threaten his aggressive colonialist plan to seize territory, displace its people, and change its landmarks in the name of peace, having failed to do so through war, violation of international agreements and covenants, and violation of UN resolutions.

What were Mubarak's signals to Shamir on the air? The first signal was that land is honor and we are prepared to give our life and blood to protect it against any aggression. Shamir is still occupying a part of Egyptian territory in Tabah despite the fact that all Egyptian, British, and international maps testify that Tabah is Egyptian territory, not to mention all the other evidence to this effect. He still prevaricates, procrastinates, beats about the bush and talks about peace with Egypt.

The second signal is that to Egypt stability means life, and the enemies of stability are enemies of life. The record of Shamir's government, and Menahem Begin's government, is full of actions that have destabilized the region and destroyed the confidence between Israel and its Arab neighbors, which was first founded with the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty with U.S. participation and guarantees. He and Begin have annexed Arab Jeru-

salem and the Syrian Golan Heights to Israel and are now trying to annex the West Bank. As President Mubarak said, all this territory is like an honor for which we will not hesitate to sacrifice our blood and our life. There can be no peace as long as these territories are in their hands, not to mention the other aggressive acts which struck at the very essence of the peace process, and which destroyed the stability to which the people of the region always aspired. These acts include mass murder, terrorism against the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza strip — simply because they ask for their legitimate rightsand the same treatment as the Jewish citizens of Israel — the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the invasion of Lebanon and occupation of Beirut, the blow to the Palestinian military and political infrastructure, the worst massacres ever committed against unarmed Palestinians and Lebanese, and the cancerous implantation of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

If that is the basis of the real peace that Shamir wants to establish with Egypt and if that is the ground for improvement of the cool relations with Egypt, then we reject it and relations will remain frozen until he totally abandons these practices, returns the occupied Arab territories to their owners, and recognizes the right of the Palestinians to have their own independent state on their own occupied territory.

Shamir must bear in mind that Egypt's commitment to the peace agreements will not last long if he continues to violate their provisions and that Egypt is bound to reconsider its calculations in light of his aggressive and expansionist policy. His policy and the policy of his party, which has been in power since 1977, have now been exposed. He has contributed nothing to the peace process and the confidence building process. In the final analysis, all he has done is torpedo the peace and confidence that Egypt wanted to build and strengthen because it wanted to forget the past, its wars and tragedies, and to turn a new page of real, just, comprehensive and durable peace which he talks about without offering anything to show that he really believes in it.

Briefs

Hungarian Loan -- Hungary will extend to Egypt a loan worth 50 million dollars to finance 50 percent of the value of the projects agreed upon between the two countries. The loan will be repayable over nine years and a half, with a four year grace period and a 6 percent interest rate. This was announced by Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of investement and international cooperation. He added that this was agreed upon within a protocol for economic and technical cooperation signed recently in Budapest. [Excerpt][Cairo MENA in English 1442 GMT 29 Apr 84 NC]

Communique No 1,454 on 2-3 May War Operations

JN031714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — The Iraqi forces have killed 12 Iranians and captured 1 in the operational sectors east of Tigris, east of Basra, and in the central sector.

Iraqi Military Communique No 1,454 issued here this evening said that six vehicles and several hardware stockpiles were destroyed east of Basra; one boat was destroyed in the operational sector east of Tigris; and two hardware stockpiles and one observation post were destroyed in the central sector.

The communique added that the Iranian regime shelled Basra, Mandali and their suburbs with heavy artillery yesterday evening and today. As a result of the enemy shelling, one woman was martyred, four civilians were injured, and two houses and one school were damaged in Basra. One civilian was martyred, and four houses, one civilian car, one cafe, and one orchard were damaged in Mandali. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,454 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: With increasing courage and determination, our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of oppression and aggression that rules in Iran. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units pounded an enemy patrol that tried to approach its forward positions in the operational sector east of Basra, forcing it to retreat after killing or wounding many of its elements. In other areas in the same sector, our forward units used all types of weapons to shell enemy positions, equipment, and engineering hardware, killing two, destroying six vehicles, and setting enemy positions and hardware stockpiles on fire.

2. One of our forward units used all types of weapons to pound an enemy boat carrying enemy elements and trying to approach our forward positions in the operational sector east of Tigris. Two were killed, one was captured, and several enemy weapons as well as various types of military hardware were confiscated.

3. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our forces used all types of weapons to clash with it, killing eight and destroying two hardware stockpiles and one observation post.

4. The treacherous Iranian regime used heavy artillery to shell Basra, Mandali and their suburbs yesterday evening and today. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling, one woman was martyred, four civilians were wounded, and two houses and one school were damaged in Basra; one civilian was wounded, and four houses, one civilian car, one cafe, and one orchard were damaged in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 May 1984

Husayn Discusses Country's Security Situation

LD030907 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0711 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (KUNA) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said his country looks forward to peace with its neighbor Iran but stressed that Iraq will not neglect its military preparedness and will escalate the military operations against Iran's Khark Island so that Iran will not prolong the war which has been going on for about 4 years. He added that Iran will not close the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the entrance of the Arabian Gulf because it is its only outlet to the outside world. He revealed that Israel is preparing to strike at important establishments of the Iraqi economy but said that Iraqi air defenses are prepared to face any emergency. This came in an extensive statement the Iraqi president made to the chief editors of Kuwaiti papers and magazines in Baghdad and which was published by the local press this morning.

President Saddam Husayn said that the security of the Arabian Gulf is threatened and advised the Gulf states to deport non-Arab elements and those who do not belong to the region. He revealed that the French Super Etendard aircraft leased to Iraq were used in striking naval targets in the military operations zone and that an Arab oil tanker leased to a foreign side was also hit.

The following issues were raised during the meeting: the internal situation in Iraq, the nature of the regime and its establishments, the decision-making centers, the economic situation, the measures taken to overcome the cucrrent difficulties, the Iraqi strategy to end the war with Iran, the effect of the non-Arab elements on the destiny of the Gulf states, the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, relations with Egypt and how can they be returned to normal, and Arab cooperation in the light of reality.

In reply to a question about the linking of the peace process with Iran with his own resignation, the Iraqi president replied: Those who reiterate such words are brainless because the Iraqi people are not an estate so that other people can appoint administrators to run it. Such fairy tales resemble those of the 16th century and do not exist any more. Asked who rules Iraq now, he replied by saying that the party leads the people and draws up the comprehensive strategy. As for the state, it is led by the Revolution Command Council. As to who rules, they all rule, each from his post and according to the responsibilities defined by the constitution. He then referred to the Iraq-Iran war and said that Iraq wants to weaken officials in Iran to a point where talk about the use of arms to implement expansionist ambitions will be rejected inside Iran itself as well as by the international community. He said that reaching this strategic aim requires action on two fields: political and military. In the military field so as to make the Iranian attacks fail to attain any results the Iranian authorities can use to raise the hopes of Iranians by saying this time we have captured Basra and next time we will reach Baghdad. This is our aim; we want the Iranians — including those who hope to reach Baghdad through the use of arms — to realize that Baghdad cannot be reached except by visitors carrying an official visa from the State of Iraq, or by a worker seeking employment, as Iranians used to do in Iraq and Kuwait and everywhere, and this will be with the approval of the Arab states. Politically, this

means action in the general political course in order to make the Arab and Iraqi motives understood by the people of Iran who have no interest in the continuation of the war — to make them realize that we are not their enemies except when they are hostile to us.

The Iraqi president said that the Iranian voice that rejects the continuation of the war is being heard and is spreading even inside Iran, and this will influence the decision of the ruler who does not fight with his own sword but uses others to carry swords in the fighting. When he no longer finds anyone to carry swords to penetrate the Iraqi or the Kuwaiti border, he will then become incapable of crossing borders. Husayn added: We must look forward to and work for peace, but we must not put into the basket of military preparedness any formula of hope regarding peace, because peace cannot be achieved except by making the Iranian regime fail militarily. We must keep the military efforts strong and mobilized on this side and at the same time work politically according to what I have already said. As for the people's situation in Iraq, President Saddam Husayn stressed that this situation is better than it was in 1979 and in 1980 prior to the war and in 1980 after the outbreak of the war in terms of the strength of conviction, optimistic outlook to the future, and the clear vision that we are right in fighting the invaders. You can find this conviction in all the people.

He then dealt with the allegations of chemical warfare and the propaganda campaign Iran has launched against Iraq throughout the world, Israel's threats that it will strike at some of Iraq's vital and military installations, and whether Iraq has taken any precautionary measures to abort the Israeli plan. He said that the subject of chemical warfare and the statements about chemical strikes are being stirred up by information media controlled by Zionism, in America and Europe, and then harmonized with news, information and statements from Iran. On the one hand they say that the ships coming to Iraq via Aqaba are loaded with chemical gas, and on the other they say that the Ukashat phosphates complex produces the chemicals. He said that it is clear that the aim behind it is to prepare an atmosphere for dealing blows to some important establishments of the Iraqi economy. He said that it was natural for Iraq to take precautionary measures to face up to this eventuality, and said: It is no secret to you that our efficiency in air defense and our Air Force is far better than it was in 1981.

President Saddam Husayn then was asked whether he believed confrontation between great powers would take place because of the Gulf war if Iran extended its aggression and attacked Gulf states other than Iraq. He replied by calling for self-reliance and for reliance on our national capabilities. He declared that no state in the world is ready to make sacrifices for another state except as far as its own interest is affected and depending on how great the sacrifices it would have to make for that state. This issue is governed by the decision that the great powers might make. He asked: Do you believe that if Iran tried to occupy Kuwait — God forbid — or Iraq, or Bahrain, that the matter would become so serious as to require Britain to enter a war and make sacrifices? Or that the Soviet Union or Germany would enter the war at this level? He said: We in Iraq do not take this into account; had we taken such things into account we would have been defeated in this long fight. We have depended basically on our own capabilities; anything additional we regard as an excellent situation, beyond expecation, including the attitude of friendly states. He added: Therefore we are interested first in the national aspect and then in the Arab aspect to give depth to the national aspect. I cannot reply by saying, yes, I believe that a war will break out, nor can I say that a war will not break out as a result.

I have given an indication of the method by which the great powers decide their policies. I would like to add that the outbreak of a world war is not a small game; you may imagine it can happen as a result of any malfunction. The great powers may trample on the bodies of the small states and then conclude agreements when they face reality.

The Iraqi president said: We as Arabs must set priorities in all situations and within the meaning of international friendships. The people who stand with our enemies are one thing, and those who do not stand with our enemies we must regard as something else. I mean that the absence of distinction in our outlook and dealings may cause the Arabs to (?lose) the ability to correctly use what filters through in terms of capabilities at the international level and the ability to correctly deal within international circles.

He added: Fundamentally, as far as our brothers in the Gulf are concerned, we hope that they will tackle their problems using their nation?' capabilities and that they will put right their internal situation courageously and say to everyone who casts his eye beyond his border: Leave this country; take what belongs to you and leave; you came to us penniless and here you have become somebody; now leave without uttering a single word. He who regards Kuwait as his country should enjoy all Kuwaiti citizenship rights, and he who regards Iraq as his country should enjoy all the rights enjoyed by an Iraqi; he who wants to leave — we say to him: Leave. We did this in Iraq. Did we not have a fifth column would have stayed in Iraq.

President Saddam went on to say: The Iraqis who came 50 years ago whether from Afghanistan, Turkey or Iran, are Iraqis. I consider this state of affairs history. These people have all Iraqi rights. But, whoever behaves badly reminds us of his background. We tell him: You remembered your background and you did not fight for your Iraqi nationality; so leave and leave quickly. He added: This is our policy over which we do not bargain. In the Gulf, brothers, if you do not deport the one who is looking for his uncles outside the Gulf, your security will remain endangered. As to the one who considers the Gulf is his uncles' home, then, by God, he is worthy of this home even if he has acquired his nationality the week before. But he should express this through substantive practical behavior. He said: The kinship is among you as Gulf states. We do not want to consider ourselves a Gulf state. We do not call ourselves a Gulf state. But, brothers, when the war is over and you want to set up a Gulf intervention force, remember Iraq is Arab and Iraq is situated on the Gulf. Iraq is not seeking external manifestations and wants only good for its brothers. Any time that you feel that Iraq is in the Gulf and that it is worthy of becoming a Gulf brother at any level of cooperation, we shall study this. It is our conviction that the basis for this is pan-Arab interest.

He added: I believe that you know this and understand it from our declared policy — no one will defend he who does not defend himself.

I do not want you to deceive yourselves in writing or in dreams. Look and dream realistically. Sleep with one eye shut and the other open. If your affairs are good, you sleep with both eyes shut. By God, we fear for you. And when we fear for you, we fear for ourselves. For me there is no "for you" or "for me." I mean that we as Arabs are at a point when we should tell the evil ones, you are evil. If we cannot tell an evil one that he is evil for any reason, at least we should say to the good, you are good — twice, in order to expose evil through our praise of good, because if a man's dignity is bruised, whatever he owns is worthless. People are not judged by how much they have if what they have is not built firmly on a strong history of preserving dignity, sovereignty, and security.

He said: Some people talk and say Iraq owes so much, that it is in debt. But when the war ends we will be very capable of repaying all our debts. We shall continue an unparalleled escalation of our economic plans. We, however, owe nothing in relation to our dignity because we would be worth nothing if Iraq went. In other words, the first thing one should sacrifice is money, but in times of trouble people sacrifice themselves.

President Saddam Husayn said: Brothers, the basic issue is your unity inside Kuwait, inside the UAE, inside Qatar, inside Oman, inside Saudi Arabia. Iraq is here at the service of the Arabs whenever the Arabs wish and to the extent they may deem appropriate. We are anxious not to lose ourselves so that an Arab can cast doubt on the matter even by 1 percent, because this process was a killer in the relations among Arabs for a long time, and has been exploited by foreigners. Iraq, as Gulf brother located in one corner of the Gulf, has to prove that it is a brothers regardless. It has to prove this to the enemies of the Arabs and not to the Arabs themselves. Its sword is drawn against the enemies of the Arabs and not against the Arabs. God willing, we are capable and confident that we can prove it. Purge your ranks and no one will ever blame you. He added: I have heard at an Arab parliament three persons opposing assistance for the purpose of defending the security of another Arab country. They oppose those who want to render this assistance because they fear and doubt those who are supposed to receive this assistance. If the matter were left to me, I would have deported them. They would not have taken from the country even their cloaks. I would have told them to leave behind their cloaks and go with only their nightshirts, as they came, and to go across the sea. After all that has happened to you and after improving your lot here, you are now telling me that I cannot use my money to help my brother who is defending me and defending himself. Now that horns have sprung from your head you want to butt. No, this I will not let you do.

He added: This is a fact; it frightens me here in Baghdad. It frightens me because I say to myself had Iraq not been as strong as it is, what would these people have done? This and that one would have come and messed up the Arab homeland, which would have been divided up so that each one of them would have taken his piece. He said: We should be strict. I spoke about this to our brothers at length. We have no ambition in this. I told them: Brothers, be wary of the foreign element; this element has increased among you. We did not say this because we wanted to interfere in their internal affairs — No, we do not seek to interfere. We said this to them because of our pan-Arab links. If something happened in Kuwait and the Iraqi rulers stood idly by, these rulers would not be good. Their life would mean less if Kuwait — God forbid — were lost, or Bahrain, or Iraq. You have a great many foreign elements in Kuwait and Bahrain, and you should be wary of this. Iraq, praise be to God, has been able to stand as a barrier preventing any harm befalling you. But you do not know who will come to power in, say, 30 years' time in Iraq. He may not have the same pan-Arab feeling. What can the situation be? Iran's problem is clear — it is situated near our border. Had India bordered the Gulf, we may have faced problems from the Indians at the same level we face problems from the Iranians. President Saddam Husayn said: In order to maintain good relations with our neighbors they should not have an element that interferes in our internal affairs. This is part of our security and the security of the country concerned; when it notices such a situation it should take this into account.

For example, in Dubai there are more foreigners than Arabs. It says why we do not take it, why is it kept in the Arabs' name? [sentence as received] We said we would take it officially [sentence as received]. If such a presence were not there, it would not have involved itself in an action such as this, and our security and their security would have remained good, and our relations would have been good.

President Saddam Husayn emphasized that any negligent brother Arab official would inflict calamity on the Arabs. This means that his honesty would be in doubt in the eyes of history and Arab security because the Arabs would not be able to remain silent and watch as a state is swallowed by a foreign state. The arms therefore must intervene, because all the Arab blood spilled would be the fault of someone neglecting the security of his country.

The Iraqi president then answered a question on why Khark Island has not been bombarded, and whether he believes Iran is capable of closing the Strait of Hormuz. He replied: At this state, we are going to undertake a siege operation that will intensify as our capabilities grow bigger, together with the means we use for the siege. These means are not our definitive ones, and our capabilities will be stronger soon. They will be much greater than they are now. However, we do have capabilities for this purpose. We have not refrained from hitting naval targets including tankers about which you all have heard and read. Some of these actions are made public; others are not made public for specific reasons.

The Iranians do know and the world is now aware that there is persistent activity to strike at tankers with oil supplies from Khark Island.

He said: One of the reasons the war continues at the hands of the Tehran regime is that continued oil exports makes the continuation of the war possible. When the possibility of exporting oil is impeded by strikes on tankers coming to Khark Island, the military and political decisionmaking of the Tehran rulers will be affected. He explained: As for when the island will be

our target, we have already said that any time we come to believe it is in the national and pan-Arab interest — in the future, not the present — for the island to become our target, together with the tankers, then we will do this and more. I am not going to elaborate.

The Iraqi president spoke about the Iraqi nuclear reactor saying: The French are still committed to its construction. This we know from our political contacts with them. However, there are quarters that seek to spread in certain French circles and especially in French and Western media an atmosphere to the effect that the French peaceful reactor could well be used for military purposes, thus trying to put ideas in the heads of the French or to put pressure on France to reconsider the specifications of the reactor. At any rate, you and all the world know that the reactor is for peaceful purposes, and it has been under full international scrutiny.

Answering a question on the postponement of the demarcation of borders with Kuwait, he said: As a matter of fact we are prepared psychologically and actually to discuss this subject with our brothers, far removed from the idea that Iraq or Kuwait might gain an inch here or an inch there. Basically, we must put the interest of the Arab nation, the Kuwaiti national interest and the Iraqi national interest before us. As far as we are concerned, we have no problem. When the atmosphere is right to examine this subject with our brothers in Kuwait, we will do it. Neither Kuwait nor Iraq refuses to discuss this subject.

He added: As far as we are concerned, we do not mind. Perhaps our brother officials in Kuwait think that the war conditions would make any discussion of this subject by Iraq embarrassing. However, some time ago we sent our brothers in Kuwait a message and told them: Do not think that the war prevents any discussion of this subject. True, we are preoccupied with the war, but war is a fact of life and does not stop our other activity in the affairs of life in general, including our relations with our brothers, whether they concern border discussions or anything else.

To a question whether what he was saying was an invitation to discuss the subject, he said: This is not an invitation; this is a reply to your question. You pose the question, and I answer. To me it is not through the media that an invitation should be made, and when I have an invitation to make I will make it directly to our brothers. There is no psychological or actual barrier between us. You can see what our relations are, thank God. Relations with our brothers in Kuwait are excellent at the official level, and there is a continuous exchange of views on all matters concerning relations and the Arab nations.

President Saddam Husayn was asked whether he believes the time has come to solve this problem. He said: I have always believed that any time is a good time. Answering a question put by a newspaper editor on whether there were tendentious people involved in this issue, the Iraqi president said: Kuwait is neither weaker or stronger than Jordan or Saudi Arabia. Iraq is not weaker now than it was 2 years ago, and it will not be stronger than it is now. If it were seeking to harm any of its brothers, why is it then settling problems with Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Why not solve them with Kuwait? The difference is a basic one, and you know it; it is that the demarcation of borders between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and Jordan was done a long time ago. This is a real difference, and despite the demarcation of the borders, there is Jordanian land inside Iraq. For us there is no difference whether the land is in Jordan or Iraq. Had it had a strategic value as regards the Iranian aggression or the Israeli aggression, we would have told our brothers in Jordan; lease us the land for 20 years. I believe they would agree.

He said: There is no problem between us and Saudi Arabia. The Saudis presented a proposal that said the border intrudes at a certain place inside Saudi Arabia and at another inside Iraq. They said: Do you have any objection to dividing it by a straight line in such a way that the area that becomes ours is equal to that which becomes yours. We said to them, we have no objection, please proceed.

The matter is different in relation to Kuwait, not in the sense that there are obstacles beyond the capability of pan-Arab brains, as I believe that there no problems exist. When a person acts in good faith he will inevitably find a solution. The solution should combine the interests of Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq should not take into account the interest of Iraq without seeing to the interest of Kuwait and vice versa. It should take into consideration their joint interest as two neighboring brothers and their security, which have become clear as a result of the war. He added. The question is not who is part of the Gulf and who is not. If our naval fleet ventures out two steps, it will be hit. This is a fact, and our brother Kuwaiti officials now see this reality in detail. They have come to understand what a military presence in Bubiyan and Warbah means in relation to Iraq or Kuwait or Iran, and we see it in detail. In the past we used to talk about it in the context of the effect of this issue on Iraq or Kuwait. Now that the thing about which we used to talk has happened we can see clearly where the joint interest of Iraq and Kuwait lies and where the separate interests of Kuwait and Iraq lie. I do not want to enter into technical discussions about the nearness and the fairness, but the fact is that we do not work from the premise of ambitions.

We should discuss matters within this context respecting the national interests of Iraq and Kuwait. He said: We should not imagine that there is a parliament in Kuwait and that there is not one in Iraq, or that in Kuwait there is public opinion, and in Iraq there is not. No. There is public opinion in Iraq, and there is one in Kuwait; there is national interest in Iraq, and there is national interest in Kuwait. And there is joint national interest for Iraq and Kuwait. This is the situation.

The editors told President Saddam Husayn they understood from his words that there were strategic points between Kuwait and Iraq and added that if this was the problem, some kind of agreement between Iraq and Kuwait could regulate them, for instance, in the event of a war. President Saddam Husayn answered: There is no problem, and I do not believe there is an issue over which we cannot reach a solution. I am not the only one to believe so, it is the belief of the brother officials in Kuwait, and you see that they are acting on a vision not far from our own. Our vision is not far from yours, but I do not want to enter into the details with you as though we were talking propaganda. But since you asked, I could not avoid an answer and I put you in the general picture.

President Saddam Husayn then spoke about the new oil exporting outlets which Iraq will open in 1985 and said that expected levels will be enough for Iraq as the level of pumping will be higher than it was before.

Regarding the AWACS aircraft and whether there were any coordination between Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to benefit from the data provided by these aircraft, particularly during the recent attack on Basra, he said: We have benefited from the AWACS in Iraq. We did not ask our brothers in Saudi Arabia to supply us with what the AWACS aircraft transmit to them in terms of information. It appears that the AWACS aircraft have been deployed in Saudi Arabia basically within a specific formula concerning primarily Saudi Arabia. I mean that we did not ask them to tell us what the AWACS aircraft provide. Our information about our enemy is sufficient for us to fight it; we fundamentally depend on this Iraqi information more than from any other source despite the fact that I believe that any Arab brother in general, not only the Saudis, would give us any information concerning Iraq's security — which is the security of all Arabs.

He then referred to the question of mediation to end the Iraq-Iran war and said that an agreement had been reached with our Saudi brothers to build a pipeline and that there was no undisclosed mediation.

With regard to the resumption of relations with Egypt he said: You know that the differences and the boycott that occurred with the As-Sadat regime were connected with what As-Sadat had done, particularly the question of Palestine from two points: The first was taking Egypt out of the Arab sphere and the second concerns installing an Egyptian official as a substitute for the Palestinian representative. The regime of President Husni Mubarak says clearly that the question of Palestine concerns the Palestinians. It does not substitute Egypt for the Palestinian officials with regard to their views and how the Arabs view the Palestinian question. Even if it differs from its Arab brothers, including the Palestinians, it will not act as a substitute for the Palestinians in solving this question. This is what we hear and read. In politics they deal along this line. In politics President Husni Mubarak behaves contrary to the declared situation regarding this issue. [as received] He has said that the remaining question concerns Egypt being taken out of the Arab sphere to confront the Zionist aggression as far as we as Arabs are concerned. We in Iraq do not want to justify any Egyptian ruler's inability to face up to an Israeli action against the Arabs or against Muslims, but it is inevitable that we should understand the circumstances that Egypt is passing through. We should not push Egypt into a gamble, and at the same time we should not give any rulers — Egyptian or Syrian or Iraqi — any excuses for retreating from any Arab stance that they should adopt in confronting an aggression threatening the Arabs.

He added that the other and fundamental point is that Egypt should not remain outside the Arab sphere: I do not say this because Iraq is facing Iranian aggression. As brothers, I would like to tell you quite clearly — the same way that you were talking about us — that we would like every Arab army to fight better than the Iraqi army. But this wish is one thing, and Arab reality is another. If there is an Arab wishing to fight on Iraq's side — and we have been fighting for 4 years — what is he waiting for? Is he waiting for the war to go on for 7 years? This is not directed at Egypt or any other Arab country. This is an Arab situation, and this is how we understand it. So far we have received token participation from one Arab country; we received token participation from another Arab state, and this token force stayed for a specific period. This force remained away from the front because you know that we cannot use a token force received from an Arab brother in the confrontation because it is there only for moral support. We realize that the Arab situation does not allow it. He added: Brothers, the aim behind our policy vis-a-vis Egypt is not for the Egyptian army to come here and fight alongside the Iraqi Army. We would like it, but be assured that we are not relying on even one Egyptian soldier to fight alongside the Iraqi army. Basically, we depend on the good wishes and prayers of the Arabs and on the capability and steadfastness of the Iraqis.

Asked where had the joint Arab defense gone, President Saddam Husayn said: Joint Arab defense — God willing this will be realized. But do not let us deceive ourselves; we do not deceive ourselves; we count the numbers. It is no use to imagine that the fourth, fifth and sixth Syrian, Libyan, Egyptian and Jordanain armies will come, only to find out that they have not and we end up empty-handed. We do not delude ourselves. We cannot calculate and build our calculation on hopes that this army or that army will come to our help. Whoever comes we will be pleased to see, and this is not because the front needs additional men but basically because of the need of the nation to register in its history that it has fought its enemies as a nation.

Our policy vis-a-vis Egypt does not stem from the fact that we are awaiting the arrival of the Egyptian Army to come to defend Iraq, with all due respect and appreciation for the Egyptian army and its capabilities. This issue is linked to the Egyptian decision and to the capabilities and circumstances of Egypt. We do not request the Egyptian Army to come and we do not reject it. But the fact is that Egypt should react with its Arab brothers in one crucible in order to plug the loopholes and eliminate the dangers threatening the Arabs and Egypt. The Arabs should go to Egypt and Egypt should come to the Arabs. The Arabs should not say that such and such regime in Egypt has committed such and such mistake or such and such crime. The regime that succeeds should put matters right. Equally, Egypt should not say that the Arabs made a mistake in Baghdad, that they should rectify the Baghdad mistake. No, Baghdad was not the mistake. The mistake is that Egypt should remain distant from the Arabs and the Arabs should continue to be distant from Egypt. This is the situation. Therefore in a brotherly manner and out of a pan-Arab responsibility and even if Iraq is preoccupied, the Egyptians should come and say: Our brothers in Iraq, come and let us be together. How can we bring Egypt back to the Arab fold and how can we take the Arabs back to Egypt? The situation exists in our conscience, history and outlook but not in our actual behavior. I mean that this situation should exist. The problem facing us now is that the Israeli flag is fluttering in Arab Egypt while the Arabs are telling a foreign state like Spain that it should not establish relations with Israel. How can the Arabs solve the problem of full diplomatic relations with the Arab country which has full diplomatic relations with Israel? At the same time we should take into account the positive attitude of the Egyptian regime. When the

Palestinians left besieged Lebanon, the Egyptian Navy provided them with facilities despite Israeli threats. We should take the decision in the light of the evacuees from Lebanon, in the light of the statement made by Egyptian officials regarding the Palestinian question and regarding the Israeli aggression on Lebanon. These are changes. The Arabs should tell the people in Egypt who made that decision: Well done. The Arabs should encourage this.

He added that we have submitted the fundamental idea to our brothers in Egypt for discussion, but so far we have not received their reply. We do not want to make a move here without the rest of our Arab brothers and without receiving a reply from Egypt. We want Egypt to resume and exercise its membership in the Arab league while diplomatic relations with Egypt remain suspended for practical and psychological consideration. We want Egypt to participate in Arab decisionmaking, interacting with its brothers within the atmosphere of the Arab League, including summit conferences. Relations concerning political missions should be expressed in a manner that is not liable to break up this psychological and practical aspect until the human mind and the pan-Arab march can create an atmosphere that can provide a solution for this issue.

President Saddam Husayn then replied to a question regarding the PLO's military capability and whether he believed that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue was the practical alternative to the dispersion of Palestinians that took place after the events in Lebanon. He said: Brothers, the strength of any fedayeen organization which has no liberated base which can use this force according to its own decision [fragment as received] Its fundamental strength lies in its capability to polarize public opinion at national, pan-Arab, or international levels and depends on the strength of its secret organization and the latter's effectiveness in carrying out its tasks. It is no secret that the PLO began in this way, but the circumstances in Lebanon changed part of its activities to a state of semiestablishment. Therefore, its presence in Lebanon used to give it a strength from the point of view that it used to be one of the parties shaping the development of events in Lebanon. But this also used to constitute a burden on it. First, a clearly displayed body becomes a good target for a sniper. Second, the organization becomes an establishment similar to a state establishment as far as its activities were concerned, and since it does not have the capabilities of a state or land, this became a burden on it. We believe that the organization, if it (?accomplishes) the basic goals with which it began after its departure from Lebanon, will rid itself of the burden of its activities in Lebanon, resume its former activities, and develop its methods in a manner in which it can restore its position to what it ought to be.

Mass organizations are not killed by circumstances and crises; they are killed when the correct outlook and progress toward its objective are disturbed. Naturally, we should not overlook the fact that [words indistinct] harm the organization, but the split does not always weaken revolutionary organizations. Every situation like this — when it becomes a factor of strength or of weakness — basically depends on circumstances, particularly leadership, because these may be appropriate for getting rid of conciliatory decisions. We hope the organization will restore its capability within the framework of the new circumstances.

He then dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and said: We support it to the extent of the conviction of Jordanians and Palestinians in it to resolve their own affairs. We shall not interfere in it. We wish them well and believe that it is an element of strength for Jordan and for the Palestinians if it leads to tangible practical results.

Asked whether this dialogue is an alternative to a state, he said: I do not look at this state as being an alternative to that; but I look at the elements that are liable to strengthen the Arab situation, which we are talking about. The Jordanians and Palestinians should proceed from an Arab base. When they agree, they should agree with sincerity and clarity, rather than on something ambiguous. This is true not only for the present situation but also for the future too, because this subject is complicated. Jordan should look to the future and not only at the present. If the Palestinians become a majority within a state, what formula should be applied for unity? Unless the question of the future is clear, the Jordanians may have doubts regarding the future of such a state, and at the same time the Palestinians are not a state at the present time but an organization, and the organization has an element of strength and an element of weakness when it reaches an agreement with the state. This is the balance in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. To what extent the Jordanian and Palestinian brothers will be successful is entirely in their hands. We wish them well.

The chief editors of the Kuwaiti papers then said that there were rumors about a gradual change in the Syrian attitude toward the Iraqi oil pipeline and the Iraq-Iran war. The question was how closely this matter was connected to the role of the Soviet Union since the Soviets are friends of both Syria and Iraq now. President Saddam Husayn replied: It is no secret that the Soviets wish that relations between Iraq and Syria were not as bad as they are now, and at the same time — according to our information — the Soviets have tried to convince the Syrians to open the oil pipeline which passes across their territory. Until now the Syrians have rejected these efforts, which have been made for a long time but have so far not produced any results. We strive to increase our capabilities and to reduce the number of our enemies and increase the number of neutrals among the ranks of our enemies. At the same time, however, we are not taking into consideration in our action to confront our enemy anything more than what we have at hand. It suffices for us to stand our ground and continue to defeat the aggressor. Any additional factor will increase our capability to confront the aggressor.

In reply to a question whether the aim behind the tension between Syria and Israel is to prevent Jordan from giving tangible assistance to Iraq, he replied: Do you mean here the facilities we receive from our Jordanian brothers or direct Jordanian military assistance? I spoke in a general manner about this when I spoke about the question of Arab assistance. Apparently the aim of the Syrian regime in general in its harassment of Jordan is to change the Jordanian situation into a card, the same as it did when it changed part of the Lebanese situation into a card, which this regime can play in the Arab and international arena and with which it can influence politics according to its plans and whims. In our estimation the Jordanians — people, government, and king — are well aware of this and we believe that the situation in Jordan is not like the situation in Lebanon.

The Iraqi president was asked how he viewed cooperation with Turkey with regard to the problem of the Kurds and the Ataturk Dam, whether the visit by the Turkish prime minister to Iran had any connection with the dam project and with what has been said about the revival of Turkey's claim to Al-Mawsil. Whether this subject was raised with him, how he views Turkey's membership in NATO as an obstacle to increasing Arab-Turkish coordination to solve the problems of the area in the future, whether there was any possibility of realizing Turkey's idea of establishing an Islamic market along the lines of the European Market to include Iraq, the Gulf states, Syria, and Jordan, and whether there is a change in Turkey's attitude toward the war were also asked.

He said: The question is long but I will answer it in full. First, you know that our relations with Turkey are friendly and fraternal relations. This is not wishful thinking; they are actually so. Turkey is an Islamic state which borders the Arab homeland, and therefore it is our duty to maintain its friendship and seek to develop fraternal relations with it in a manner that benefits both Turkey and the Arabs.

So far Turkey has done nothing at the expense of the strategic Arab interest. It has not behaved in a hostile manner toward the Arabs for a long time. Therefore, we should respect and encourage Turkey to continue to do so. Definitely Turkey seeks good relations with the Arabs and strives to encourage the positive elements in these relations, including its relations with Iraq.

Turkey is part of the NATO alliance, but there are other European states that are part of NATO with which the Arabs have good relations. The Arabs do not impose conditions or restrictions on their friendship but may oppose the views of those states with which they establish friendship, nor is it at the expense of these countries' views on their national security. The Arabs did not ask as a condition that Turkey not be a member of NATO to establish with it strong and developed relations.

As for the fact they have their own views on these relations, this is a natural question in the international sphere and within the views of the other states on their national interests and national security. We have not seen, and Turkey has not carried out,any action by which we felt that there was any Turkish intention toward expansion at the expense of the Arabs — of Iraq or any other Arab country bordering Turkey. As for Turkey's views on the war, it wishes to stay neutral with regard to the war. There are Arab states, including Iraq, that believe Turkey should play an active role with regard to stopping the war. Turkey borders Iraq, Iran, and the Arab homeland. Therefore, it can play an active role on this issue. I believe that this reply covers all the questions.

President Saddam Husayn added: As regards the dams being built in Turkey, you know that the source of water for Syria and Iraq is in Turkey, and there are international usage and laws concerning the acquired and recent rights to the exploitation of water. There is a continuing search for a formula that confirms the acquired rights of Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. The discussion of any new case pertaining to the water and projects as to whether those being constructed in Syria or in Turkey are in the interests of others. But what has harmed our interests gravely and consequently will harm the interests of Syria are the Syrians. The Syrian side is the one that has harmed the interests of the two countries because, for the past year and even before 1982, we strived to reach an agreement based on international law to be respected at least by the two Arab parties, Syria and Iraq, and to hold a tripartite meeting of the three countries in order to solve the problems among us. The Syrians have always avoided such an agreement. I visited them in 1982 and they agreed to it. They presented a proposal which we accepted but then they abandoned it during the same visit and thus ended the last official discussion of this matter between us and Syria since then.

Regarding the visit of the Turkish prime minister to Iran, the Iraqi president said: I have no conclusions and cannot reach conclusions how the visit will go or what matters will be discussed. The media will tell us what matters will be discussed and what the outcome of the visit will be.

The editors of the Kuwaiti papers asked whether President Saddam Husayn would on the occasion of his birthday issue a pardon for all the political exiles abroad, for those who had not reported for military service, and for those who evaded military service inside and outside Iraq. He answered: As regards those who evaded military service, this matter is judged by concise laws and in circumstances of war; we have no problem about choosing a birthday. First, a birthday is not an official situation, and it is a matter imposed on us by the people. Our affair was exposed — [Husayn] laughing — by the other side. It is possible for some decisions to be timed to coincide with national and pan-Arab occasions, but in general the path we have chosen — and you have observed this path — is that when we are convinced of a decision, we take it and do not wait for an occasion even a week away. We do not postpone it. Is it necessary for us to announce its occasion? I mean, will those few who are in the Gulf, the few who are in Iran, or the few Iraqis in Europe be happier when we say, you are pardoned, come back? In this situation the decision will be a technical decision for the leadership more than a popular case. This means that the people might look at this situation with unease when they ask who is this political fugitive, what was he doing abroad, with whom was he cooperating against Iraq, and why are they away from Al-Qadisiyah which is a defense of the homeland, honor, dignity, Iraq, and the nation? This means that we enter a wide discussion with the people. Yet you can on our behalf tell anyone to whom the description political refugee applies and who wants to return to Iraq that no one will cling to his coat at the airport. Let him be welcome to share his country in honor and responsibility.

Asked about the possibility of reviving the Shatt al-Arab water supply project, Saddam Husayn said: "Brother, the matter depends on you. We have said that this water is [word indistinct].

By God, if you want to cultivate then we will discuss the matter. But if you want only to drink, then we cannot discuss it. The Jordanians [as received] said they want water to drink. We told them take it, and we have agreed and things are all right." Asked if this meant that the project was acceptable, he replied: "Nothing is unacceptable to us. Everything suits us."

Referring to Iranian threats to close the Strait of Hormuz and whether they are taken seriously, President Saddam Husayn said: "The Iranians could disturb the strait; they have direct

land and water link with it. But who would block his own nose. Can the Iranians block their own noses, shutting off their air supply, and thus die? Their threats to close the Strait of Hormuz are like a person threatening to kill himself. Let them kill themselves. As far as the Arabs are concerned, they can live for some time until navigation is resumed, but the Iranians cannot live without the Strait of Hormuz."

The editors in chief said that the studies prepared by the Institute of Strategic Studies affirm that the United States will be the principal beneficiary of any Iranian closure of the Strait of Hormuz because it will be able then to convince the Gulf countries to accept the presence of U.S. forces in their territories. This was what was offered by the two U.S. envoys, Rumsfeld and Murphy. Mexico, in its capacity as an oil producing country, will also benefit. The American oil companies will also benefit. Washington will be able to exercise greater pressure on the European countries and Japan. What do you say about all that?

President Saddam said: "We must not tackle this matter from one aspect only. Certainly, the Americans have their own plans for the Gulf. We know that many countries have been involved in prolonging the war and even preparing for it. We know that some brother Arabs took the side of the enemy while others sat and watched for a long time and still others took Iraq's side.

"Attitudes toward the war have passed through a number of stages, of which you are aware, and you can judge them for yourself. The Americans are saying now that they do not want the war to continue. They must prove that their actions match their words. However, to answer the question I say: You say that the Americans want to shut the Gulf so that the price of American oil will increase. With regard to energy sources, one would say that if the price of oil increases, and if this were to be reflected positively by the factors you have pointed out, the Americans will not fail to take into account the effect on their allies. China could sell part of its gas and oil and Britain could do the same from the North Sea, and so on. Thus, matters are interlinked, and we cannot rely solely on any one factor. I do not believe that the great powers make decisions of such gravity by relying on one factor only without taking into consideration what actions the others might take and the likelihood of other factors taking a different direction.

"I cannot say whether the Americans want to close the Gulf. But the Americans will certainly try to change the attitudes of the Gulf countries, and this is one of the reasons for prolonging the war. But this is a serious game, and you are aware of how serious it is."

President Saddam Husayn was asked why his brother was relieved of his duties as chief of security some time ago, a matter that, at the time, gave rise to a wave of talk. He said: By God, in Iraq we are not a ruling family. We are sons of peasants. We have come forward, through a revolutionary party, to take over positions for the honor of responsibility and service to the people. Today Saddam Husayn is a head of state, and the day the Iraqis are convinced that I should seize a spade and work like any other peasant then I will work. But I am an active lawyer and I cannot do that. This is no problem in Iraq. Anyone could be a ministry under secretary and then leave his post; an intelligence director could leave his post; a director of security could leave his post. It seems that there has been a lot of talk about this subject, more than it deserves, and aside from the view we have mentioned, because he was the brother of Saddam Husayn.

The Arab world must get used to the idea that the brother of Saddam Husayn can be a director of intelligence today, and an ordinary citizen tomorrow. The regime here is like others. Brothers do not become princes. Brothers are brothers who assume responsibility; they discharge it and then leave it.

There has been a lot of talk that Barazan, along with a number of officers, had conspired against Saddam; or that he was unable to discover a conspiracy that was being hatched against me. These are naive stories concerning reality about Iraq and reality about the regime. Barazan was not a plotter. As far as Barazan is concerned we arrived at a decision that he was not capable of responsibly discharging this post; that is all. He is no conspirator, no thief; but he could not handle such a responsibility.

The Iraqi president said that the Super Etendard aircraft had hit a number of targets in the Gulf recently, including an Arab ship on lease to a foreign state. It was leased to Iran and came to Khark Island. He urged the interested Arab brothers to stipulate serious conditions when leasing Arab tankers to them, that they should not go to Khark Island to carry Iranian oil.

He stressed the visit of Mr Tariq 'Aziz to Saudi Arabia, saying: Saudi Arabia is a sister state that we respect and with which we exchange views. Just as we visit you in Kuwait, we visit the Saudis and they visit us, and we are concerned about our relations with our brothers.

As for the visit to Moscow by Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn said that it was extremely good at all levels. The Iraqi president concluded his encounter with the editors of Kuwaiti newspapers by asking them to convey his greetings and his good wishes to the people of Kuwait.

Ramadan, USSR Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

JN031028 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Viktor Minin, USSR ambassador in Baghdad. During the meeting they reviewed cooperation between Iraq and the USSR and the means of promoting this cooperation. They also followed up matters in the agreement that was concluded during the Iraqi official's recent visit to the USSR.

Romania's Dobrin Arrives on Friendship Visit

JN022014 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA) — Tamara Dobrin, executive chairman of the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front in Romania, arrived here tonight at the head of a delegation on a week-long visit to Iraq. Dobrin told INA that her visit to Iraq falls within the framework of bolstering the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Romania in the

interest of the two friendly peoples. She added that she will also acquaint herself with the activities of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front in Iraq. Na'im Haddad, secretary general of the Front, welcomed the delegation upon its arrival.

Talks Held

JN031544 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — A round of talks between a delegation representing the Iraqi progressive, national, and patriotic front and a delegation representing the Romanian socialist democracy and unity front was held here today.

During the talks, the two delegations reviewed the developing relations between the two countries in various fields. They stressed their common desire to strengthen these relations for the benefit of the two friendly peoples. They also exchanged views on some Arab and international issues, particularly the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Zionist invasion of Lebanese territory, and the Palestine question.

Na'im Haddad, secretary general of the Iraqi front, spoke about Iraq's experience in the front's action, referring to the Iraqi leadership's concern about strengthening the march of democracy in Iraq and consolidating our people's national unity in order to build up the new, strong, and capable Iraq. He reviewed the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war, affirming Iraq's readiness and determination to continue to defend its land and sovereignty against the expansionist ambitions and the conspiratorial designs that are trying to encroach on Iraq.

Comrade Tamara Dobrin, the head of the Romanian delegation, stressed her country's concern about promoting relations of cooperation with Iraq in all fields in the interest of the two countries. She also praised Iraq's comprehensive development despite the circumstances of the war, and wished Iraq continued progress and prosperity.

Comrade Dobrin arrived in Baghdad last night at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last several days. In a statement to INA, she said that her visit is within the framework of promoting the ties of friendship between Iraq and Romania in the interest of the two friendly peoples, and of acquainting herself with the experience of Iraq's progressive national and patriotic front and its activities.

Labor Minister Departs for Nicaragua 3 May

JN031558 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — Babakr Mahmud Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs, left Baghdad today for Nicaragua at the head of a delegation that will participate in the third congress of the labor ministers of the nonaligned and developing states. The conference will convene there next Monday, and will last 5 days.

Parliamentary Official on Israeli, U.S. Designs

JN031917 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, member of the Iraqi National Assembly and first vice president of the world progress organization, has stated that the feverish campaign — adopted by the United States and carried out by Iran with Israel's cooperation — to accuse Iraq of using chemical weapons in the war is a prelude to launching a new aggression against Iraqi industrial and scientific installations.

In a speech at the international conference on Israel as a force of occupation which began in Vienna yesterday, Hammudi said that Iraq had informed the UN secretary general of its readiness to cooperate with any neutral party in order to investigate these Iranian claims aimed at covering up for prolonging the Iranian aggression against Iraq for the past 44 months, and at justifying the heavy losses in human lives that the Iranian forces have sustained. Hammudi explained that the Zionist concept of security — which has been used to occupy more Arab lands in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt and to carry out more aggression and expansion — seeks to depict the Zionist entity as facing a constant threat from the neighboring Arab countries. This enables it to obtain U.S. support and become militarily superior to all Arab countries.

Hammudi explained that Israel interprets the question of security outside the frameworks defined by international law, and that it considers any Arab progress, activity, or stand as posing a threat to its security. That's why it raised a hue and cry over Iraq's possessing nuclear weapons — in order to justify its treacherous attack against the Iraqi nuclear installations that were established for peaceful and scientific purposes in June 1981.

Concluding his speech, Hammudi said that similar Zionist schemes have failed in the past and will fail in the future. This is because the Arab individual has set a course for liberation and for scientific progress, while the Zionist entity is fumbling in its domestic crises and is moving toward the brink of disaster — as would any entity which is based on aggression, expansion, and racial discrimination.

Haykal on Iraqi Role, Israeli-Iranian Collusion

JN030843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal has disclosed that Israeli General Sharon has recently met with a number of Iranian Army officers on the territory of a non-Arab Islamic state. In a statement published in the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* here today, the well known Arab journalist and thinker said nobody can deny that Israel has supplied large quantities of arms to Iran under a contract between the Iranian regime and Israel.

Haykal pointed out that Islamic Iran's relations with Israel cannot in any way be explained under the logic that necessity knows no laws.

Haykal added that Israel's arms deals and Sharon's meeting with Iranian military commanders not long ago make it incumbent on certain Arab sides to reconsider their stands. He emphasized that the Arabs' main objective is to end the Iraq-Iran war. Haykal said that if an Arab cannot help end the war, he should at least stop fanning its fire.

Haykal said that Iraq's emergence as a country that possesses the bases of strength and reconstruction has made it a target for continuous savage provocations.

Haykal affirmed that Iraq represents a tangible weight in Arab history and in the Arab Gulf. It is, therefore, faced with a big responsibility which it must assume. He said Iraq is the only cohesive Arab state in the Arab Gulf capable of building an effective intrinsic power in the region for the general interest of the Iraqi people and the rest of the Arab nation.

Haykal said that the attacks on Iraq have increased in their ferocity with the increase in the Iraqi leadership's ability to express legitimate national and pan-Arab ambitions.

Haykal pointed out the need to enlighten the people about the dangers surrounding the Arab nation and said that the Arab Gulf states now seem fully aware of the requirements for safeguarding the security of the entire Gulf, where the Iraqi role as the deterrent that prevents Iran from overrunning the Arab Gulf has become significant.

Haykal expressed his regret that Iraq is fighting this war in difficult Arab circumstances in which it has been forced to repulse unbearable Iranian provocations and to continue the war by depending on its own strength without any proper Arab support.

'Arafat Continues Visit, Meets With Officials

Talks With 'Ubaydat

JN031240 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Amman — Ahmad 'Ubaydat, prime minister, received in his office this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Both sides reviewed the developments in the occupied Arab territories and means of supporting the steadfastness of the kinfolk there.

The meeting was attended by Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories; 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members; Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Brigadier 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, representative of the PLO Executive Committee in Amman; and Sulayman ash-Shurafa, Fatah Revolutionary Council member.

Confers With PLA Commander

JN040753 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 4 May 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met here yesterday evening with Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] in Jordan. They discussed issues related to the Badr forces stationed in Jordan.

'Arafat also met with the deported Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimah.

Meets Occupied Territories Minister

JN040804 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 4 May 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, met here yesterday evening with Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories, and discussed with him a number of issues related to bolstering the steadfastness of Arab people in the occupied territories.

Meets With PRC Ambassador

JN031533 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Amman, 3 May (PETRA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman received here this afternoon PRC Ambassador in Amman Huang Shixie. During the meeting, the two sides coordinated and prepared for Yasir 'Arafat's coming visit to the PRC.

Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman; and a number of Palestinian officials attended the meeting.

Holds Press Conference

JN040926 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 4 May 84 pp 1,16

[Yusuf al-'Absi dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, described his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials as successful, fruitful, and positive. He said the talks took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, and that they are geared to a united acceptable formula.

At a news conference he held at the guest palace last night, 'Arafat said his talks with His Majesty King Husayn dealt with the situation in the occupied territory; with what is taking place in Jerusalem; with Israel's crimes against the Islamic and Christian holy places; with the kinfolk's tribulation there; and with the Israeli practices against the Palestinian territory and people.

'Arafat said: I discussed with His Majesty King Husayn means of strengthening Jordanian relations and joint moves in all spheres, including those in the international arena. I discussed with the king the basic points of my visit to the PRC. I regard my visit to the PRC as falling within the steps which have been agreed upon in the international arena.

'Arafat noted that he discussed with His Majesty King Husayn the results of his majesty the king's moves in the international and Arab arenas, especially the moves related to the Palestinian cause and people. He said: Our talks dealt with the results of the Jerusalem Committee's meetings, and with the need to increase Arab and Islamic support for Jerusalem and the occupied territories. He said: The doles and crumbs will not save Jerusalem.

On the assassination of Palestinian journalist Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Federation and member of the Palestinian Writes and Journalists Union, 'Arafat said: It is regrettable that the hands of treason extended to kill this brave struggler. We know from where the killers moved; they have an office in Damascus. I call on the Syrian brothers to hand over the killers, especially since they direct their criminal operations from their office in Damascus.

Answering a question on the Palestinian-Syrian relations, 'Arafat said: All must know we have accepted all efforts to correct the Syrian-Palestinian relations. We accepted the Soviet and Saudi mediations, and the efforts exerted by the YAR, PDRY, and Algeria, as well as other efforts that have been announced. Brother Faruq Qaddumi visited Damascus last month and held prolonged talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. This is in addition to the meetings that Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and Nayir Hawatimah held with Syrian officials over the past 3 days.

We are trying to hold more contacts. We hope all these efforts will achieve positive results, because what the Arab nation is facing must be above all wounds. Thus, we must proceed from the pan-Arab issues in the first place.

Answering a question on the suspension of some legitimate Palestinain institutions, 'Arafat said: The PLO Executive

Committee's meetings are being suspended because its members are being prevented from leaving Damascus.

On holding negotiations to exchange POW's with the Israeli entity, 'Arafat said: Israel violated the agreement reached in Geneva when the first operation of exchanging the Ansar POW's was completed by re-opening the camp it pledged to close forever. 'Arafat disclosed that during the past 4 months, Israel detained 1,400 Palestinians in the Ansar camp on the charge of carrying out military operations behind the lines of the Israeli Army. He said: Talks are currently being held with the International Red Cross to complete the release of the detainees.

Yasir 'Arafat said: In one of the interviews, I challenged Israel to peace. However, Israel presented to the UN secretary general and the Security Council president an official rejection of the idea of holding an international conference which was suggested by the 23-member committee at the United Nations and which was presented to the secretary general and the Security Council president.

'Arafat said: Israel rejected the Brezhnev initiative, the Fes plan, the Egyptian-French plan, and the European declaration that was issued recently; and attacked the statement made by the pope on the Palestinian cause. Thus, we can see that they are conspiring against our people, who will use all means to resist this U.S.-supported enemy.

Answering a question on the difficulty of U.S. moves in an election year, 'Arafat wondered: Did the United States move before the elections? The U.S. stand is hostile to the Palestinian and Arab people, and biased toward Israel and the ruling military clique there. This stand provides Israel with all kinds of unlimited support enabling it to continue its occupation of Arab territories and to build the settlements.

'Arafat said: I address the Arab nation saying: The United States will not wake up unless its interests in the region are threatened. All U.S. Administrations only care about their interests. The conflagration that erupted in Beirut will not stop. Sooner or later, this conflagration will destroy U.S. interests, especially since the Arab nation will adopt its decision. The United States must realize that continued support for Israel will produce conflagration.

On the possibility of issuing Palestinian passports, 'Arafat said: The Arab League has adopted a decision to this effect. At their recent meeting in Tunis, the Arab foreign ministers formed a delegation to follow up on the subject and contact the Arab and friendly countries to facilitate the legal and technical aspects of Palestinian passports.

'Arafat asserted that Israeli policy will not change if the Labor Party wins in the next elections. He said: The change of the Israeli policy will only be in the color.

'Arafat said: We are waiting for the approval of the Algerian brothers on the convening of the PNC. During the news conference, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, noted that the discussions which the resistance factions will hold on 10 May will fix the date for the PNC meetings.

'Arafat categorically denied that the PLO is facing a dilemma. He said: We are not facing a dilemma, but the others are facing a dilemma. I have overcome my dilemma. What worries me is the Arab dilemma, especially since there is a U.S.-Israeli conspiracy in which some Arab parties are involved to establish sectarian states in Lebanon. 'Arafat added: The events have proven that we were a unifying factor in Lebanon that unified Leabnon's territory and people. We also obstructed the implementation of the sectarian conspiracy.

'Arafat said: What happened in Lebanon was aimed at removing the Palestinian factor from the Middle East formula. However, our battle with the enemy has not yet ended; we are still launching a war of attrition behind the Israeli forces lines in southern Lebanon.

Answering a question on whether the Libayn regime has concocted a plot to kidnap him as it did with Imam Musa as-Sadr. 'Arafat said: Not all kinds of bird flesh can be eaten. When Imam as-Sadr was kidnapped, we formed a committee to investigate the incident. We are in contact with Nabih Birri to announce the results of the investigation.

Talks 'Successful'

JN032035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Amman, 3 May (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the talks he held with Jordan's king Husayn were successful.

At a news conference here this evening, the Palestinian leader said the Jordanian-Palestinian talks focused on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the crimes being committed against Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem. 'Arafat added that the talks also dealt with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts in the international arena and the contacts His Majesty King Husayn has had on the international level with respect to the Palestinian cause.

At his news conference, 'Arafat announced the release of 46 Palestinians who were in Jordanian prisons. He said this measure has been taken as an expression of the brotherly relations that exist between Jordan and the PLO.

'Arafat also said that he will leave for the PRC tomorrow, Friday, for talks with ranking PRC officials on the schemes that threaten the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

'Arafat praised the results of the Jerusalem Committee meeting, especially the resolution adopted to sever diplomatic relations with any country which transfers its embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

'Arafat expressed deep sorrow at the death of struggler Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union. He said the killers' office is in Damascus, and that this office is the principal party responsibile for assassinating the struggler journalist, who was loyal to the Palestinian cause and to all Arab causes.

Foreign Minister Al-Masri Returns From Fes

JN031930 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman this evening after heading the Jordanian delegation to the Jerualem Committee meetings which were held on 19 April in Fes under His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. Al-Masri also visited a number of European countries as part of an Arab delegation commissioned by the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting that recently was held in Baghdad to help end the Iraq-Iran war. The foreign minister made this statement on the results of the delegation's tour to our correspondent Mahmud Muharib:

[Begin recording] [Mahmud Muharib] Your Excellency, what has the committee achieved in this tour?

[Tahir al-Masri] The Arab delegation comprised of the YAR foreign minister, myself, and representatives of the Iraqi and Saudi foreign ministries visited five European countries, four of which are EEC members. The delegation was formed as a result of a resolution adopted by the Arab foreign ministers' council held in Paris to explain and declare the Arab stand toward the Iraq-Iran war.

In the five European countries — the last of which was Bonn — we explained the dangers of this war, of its continuation, and of its expansion. We also explained to the leaders of the countries we visited the efforts Iraq is exerting to stop the war and achieve a peaceful solution, and the support of the Arab countries and the Arab League for the Iraqi efforts. We visited these countries as Arabs and as an Arab delegation that speaks on behalf of the Arab League and on behalf of Iraq.

In fact, we found complete understanding of the dangers of this war and its continuation and expansion. We agreed with these five countries on the fact that we must exert all efforts in order to stop this war and end this bitter fighting that is being waged on the Iraqi-Iranian front. I can say that we achieved positive results and complete understanding from these countries.

[Muharib] Thank you. [end recording]

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Views Syrian Arrest of Israelis

JN031014 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 3 May 84 pp 22, 19

[Commentary by 'Abd ar-Rahim 'Umar: The Israelis Are Creating a Crisis]

[Text] The clamor that Israel is creating about the Syrian forces' arrest of three Israelis — who are described by Syria as a terrorist group and by Israel as officials of its Liaison Office in Beirut — has political aspects revealing Israel's determination to undermine the achievements of Lebanese reconciliation and to prevent the new Lebanese Government from assuing its work.

Certainly, the arrest of the three Israelis does not mean the Israeli Government sent them just to be arrested by the Syrian authorities, but they were sent to carry out acts they cannot perform inside their offices, acts such as espionage, terrorism, or contacting some of the Lebanese groups that welcomed them when they came to Beirut as invaders and who are still keeping a liaison office for them in Israel.

With the arrest of these three Israelis, Israel wants to prove to the world that Lebanon is not fully independent and that the Syrian forces are the party that assumes power there. Consequently, to justify its presence in Lebanon, Israel wants to use the presence of the Syrian forces and the weakness of Lebanese Government, which the Israeli media keep talking about, as well as Lebanon's inability to implement the Israeli demand for protection of the Israeli settlements in northern occupied Palestine. Thus, Israel stresses the need to either keep its invading forces in southern Lebanon or maintain some kind of a recognized influence through which it can make arrangements to protect its settlements.

Arens' threats to the Lebanese Government are probably the most obvious signs that Israel intends to exploit the incident against Lebanon's stability on the one hand, and to escalate tension with Syria to the highest level within Lebanese borders on the other.

The Lebanese Government's declaration that it is responsible for the safety of the members of the Israeli office in Beirut is sound but insufficient. What is required is for Lebanon to use all diplomatic means and resort to the United Nations in order to force Israel to withdraw its office, particularly since the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is not functioning and Israel currently relies on its invading forces for its stay in Lebanon. Furthermore, the Arab countries must help Lebanon face this crisis, prevent unilateral action on the political and military levels, and prevent this crisis being considered as one of only POWs.

Birri Explains Objections to New Cabinet

NC031930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1803 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Following his return from Damascus this evening, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held a news conference in which he said:

Much confusion has arisen regarding the reasons which prompted us not to accept Cabinet positions. To preclude any ambiguity, the following can be said in all frankness: We got rid of the second Al-Wazzan era and entered the Lausanne era — Lausanne foiled any progress toward a modern Lebanon. All of us are aware that the Lebanese-Syrian summit compensated for the failure of that conference through the efforts exerted, particularly by President Hafiz al-Asad. Reconciliation is based on two things: the south, and the abolition of political sectarianism. Agreement was reached under the auspices of President al-Asad to form a national unity government of 26 ministers, four of them ministers of state. Why 26 ministers? The answer is simple. Following more than 9 years of destructive war and strife, it was necessary that all sectors of the people, without exception, be able to take part in the process of restoring unity, liberation, building, and development. It was established under this agreement that the Amal Movement, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], and the opposition in general — that is, the National Salvation Front — would have the lion's share in this Cabinet, thereby producing a nationalist majority. This is in the sense that for the first time sectarian parties would be subordinated to enable us to arrive at a national affiliation.

To prevent any ambiguity, the agreement also stipulated that Amal would name five ministers, the PSP three ministers, and so forth. We declared that we had no reservations regarding the participation of the Lebanese Forces in the Cabinet, provided they adhere to the statement of accord and [agree to] the liberation of the south. They are called upon to participate on these bases in the hope that we can truly move Lebanon toward the abolishment of political sectarianism.

I was really surprised by the announcement of the formation of the 10-member Cabinet, although his excellency, my friend, Prime Minister Rashid Karami talked to me exactly 1 and 1/2 hours before that announcement on other issues — security issues. I discovered that this 10-member Cabinet circumvents the Damascus summit, is a plot against Syria, and a return to the 1943 formula. The Cabinet was decreased in size in order to prevent new fresh air from penetrating the rooms which are full of scum, and to restore and promote sectarianism. It is a plot against the nationalists, designed to teach a lesson to all those who supported us in our war against hegemony and for equality and justice — a lesson that would not be forgotten throughout history.

1. Amal and the PSP have been excluded from the Higher Defense Council despite [President] Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's pledge to President al-Asad that he would create an equilibrium on this council in view of its extreme importance. This exclusion was prompted by a desire to preclude Lebanon's Army from becoming an Arab army. It was also prompted by a desire to avoid the issue of pinpointing those responsible for the destruction of the suburb, the mountain, and West Beirut. In other words, it is forbidden to prosecute those Army commanders linked to Israel. It is also forbidden to jeopardize [southern army of Lebanon commander] Antoine Lahhad's interests which are decided and maintained at the Defense Ministry.

2. Amal and the PSP have been excluded from any political body that has the right to exercise or participate in decisionmaking. This confirms that the anticipated constituent committee will be formed along the same lines. Consequently, our desire for change could be reduced to merely preserving the current constitution.

3. Thus far the government has shown no interest in the south, neither in its fruit, nor in its tobacco, nor in its sweet and bitter products. There is also the question of the evacuees and the areas in Lebanon destroyed by the regime. No special attention has been given to these matters. A ministry for the south and another for reconstruction have not been established, although a ministry for environment has.

4. It is agreed — and our friend, Prime Minister Karami insists on this — that the legislative decrees should be abolished. The new Cabinet exhibits such a legislative decree through the representation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. [sentence as heard] The labor portfolio was given to one minister, and the social affairs portfolio to another. Isn't this a major entrenchment of these decrees.

The lukewarm attitude taken toward the issue of the Army, the attempt to avoid pinpointing responsibilities, and the failure the make the south the central issue confirm that this Cabinet is a plot against Syria and the nationalists. We know that our friend, Prime Minister Karami does not desire this. However, the atmosphere in which he was placed — the shelling escalated the day he formed the government — made him act in haste to form the government, although he constantly cites the proverb: Haste makes waste.

In any case, time has not corrected what Lausanne failed to achieve. This Cabinet has returned us to Lausanne, and all of us know that at Lausanne we failed to agree on any step toward justice, equality, and the abolition of sectarianism. However, if for the sake of argument we are now compelled to judge the Cabinet by the sectarian yardstick, then even by that yardstick, this Cabinet does not create a just equilibrium among the communities.

A. Why is the Sunni representation in this Cabinet lacking in the sense that there are only three portfolios for the Sunnites as compared to four each for the Maronites, Shi'ites, and [Greek] Orthodox? On what basis was this arrived at?

B. Why did the Catholics not get what they are entitled to in the dividing of the pie? Why are the Armenians not represented? Was this a punishment to them because they did not fight against us?

C. Why was the Maronite representation monopolized by the Lebanese Front and why was [former] President Franjiyah, who was the champion of their cause, in their opinion, in Lausanne and after, deprived of it? Why was it rumored that President

Franjiyah was the one who vetoed the participation of the Lebanese Forces, even those with no connection to Israel, and then under this pretext the formation of the 26-member cabinet was aborted to please him, and when the 26-member cabinet, was not formed, Franjiyah was dropped, too.

D. Why was [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam excluded? Was it because he recently adopted a positive attitude toward the positions of the opposition?

Anyway, when discussion commences on reforms in the constitutent committee, especially when the time comes to discuss the powers of the president of the republic and the prime minister, Prime Minister Karami will miss us. Nevertheless, the Amal Movement has announced its position — namely, that it supports the unity of Lebanon, the formation of the Cabinet, and does not see any objection to replacing Amal with a minister from the Ba'labakk-Al-Hirmil area which has been deprived of ministerial representation for the past 13 years. We announce in advance our support for any step, and will not stand as an obstacle in the way of the march of peace in Lebanon. However, the Amal Movement is not prepared to participate in the promotion of the 1943 formula after all that has taken place in Lebanon. For this reason it cooperated with the efforts being exerted by fraternal Syria and sent proposals to the regime in the hopes it would correct some situations. Its position is final, because it pertains to objectives and has nothing to do with ministerial posts.

In reply to a question, Birri said: If the government responds to our demands for the establishment of a reconstruction ministry, a ministry for the south, in addition to what Dr Baydun and Khalid Junblatt have conveyed to Prime Minister Karami, we will be prepared to retreat from what we have announced.

Karami Does Not Disagree

NC032105 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] In a statement granted to the Voice of Lebanon, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stressed that he cannot possibly disagree with Nabih Birri. It is in the national interest, Karami said, that we enjoy unity. Karami added that there is continued interest in the problem of the south, and called for more cooperation and understanding between various forces and leaderships. Karami said that no one wants to procrastinate in bringing about reasonable and acceptable solutions. He also pointed out that there are some contacts underway which he hopes will bear fruit.

Sham'un Replies to Birri

NC040525 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 84

[Text][Former] President Camille Sham'un has replied to Nabih Birri, who considered the new Cabinet a consecration of the 1943 formula. He said: Birri must choose between the 1943 formula and the federal formula. If he chooses the federal formula, then we will welcome it. But as far as the issue of abolishing political sectarianism is concerned, it will be tackled by the Constitutent Commission.

Rashid Karami: Liberation National Duty

NC031200 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] At the Government House today, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stressed that liberation is a national duty, security is a humanitarian duty, and reconstruction and development are an economic and social duty.

Answering newsmen's questions, Karami said: The current phase requires comprehensive cooperation and joint efforts between us and all citizens for reconstruction and development; all of this requires security and stability. Prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording] I ask God to grant us success in this difficult mission to serve this good people and to end their 10-year suffering. This requires comprehensive cooperation between us and all citizens because today we need joint efforts and good positive cooperation; we have had enough killing and destruction. Let us save our capabilities and resources so that we may use them for reconstruction and development. All of this requires security and stability. We will work toward serving the interests of all of us.

When some talk about priorities I wonder how such priorities can be defined and classified. Liberation is a national duty, security is a humanitarian duty, and reconstruction and development are an economic and social duty. Therefore, we must begin with all these in light of a comprehensive plan and a studied policy in order to coordinate and integrate our efforts to serve the interests of this people and to bring about the services they require. Electricity, telephones, water, roads, clinics, hospitals, and so forth are all important and essential matters. As everybody knows, we, as a state and institutions, are in a difficult position and require great funds. No wonder I say that it is a foundation-rebuilding operation. The importance and accuracy of this operation requires the collaboration of all scientific and specialized efforts so that the construction will be on solid foundations. We do not claim we will do miracles, but it suffices to say that we are honest, determined, and sincere. We hope that what we started today is a good beginning. May God grant us success.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, there have been many changes 10 years after your chairmanship of the salvation government in 1975. Are you optimistic about the coming phase?

[Karami] I am optimistic insofar as every citizen carries out his duty toward himself and his society. Today all of us must be mobilized in this general workshop. We are all soldiers serving this homeland. On this basis it will be possible to achieve our aspirations because we have had enough division and fighting. God says in his book: And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart. [Koranic verse] I am always optimistic because I believe in this people and their noble origin. [end recording]

Efforts To Settle Cabinet Issue Continue

NC040703 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpts] The contacts which have been held at various official and leadership levels in Beirut and Damascus have so far failed to convince Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri to join the Cabinet.

Well-informed sources said that despite the apparent intransigence of Birri's position, the possibility of reaching an understanding with him is not ruled out. The sources expressed the belief that the contacts to take place with Birri will considerably contribute to softening his stances. This was confirmed in the comment by Prime Minister Rashid Karami yesterday in response to Birri's news conference.

Contacts were reactivated yesterday following Birri's return from Damascus with former Minister Marwan Hamadah who contacted Prime Minister Karami and briefed him on the discussions. Hamadah also contacted Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt who is now in Al-Mukhtarah. Salim al-Huss contacted Prime Minister Karami for the same purpose. Birri also received a call from George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, to discuss developments. Birri met with 'Ali 'Usayran, son of 'Adil 'Usayran, who conveyed to Birri 'Usayran's solidarity with him. Birri has briefed 'Usayran on his Damascus talks.

The sources said intensive contacts and efforts will be made today to end the dilemma. Former Minister Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt will meet with Prime Minister Karami and Birri in order to bring their views closer together. The sources expect the situation to become clear during the next few hours, noting that cooperation with Damascus to settle all problems is continuing.

Birri said PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who returned to Al-Mukhtarah, has expressed his solidarity with him not to attend the Cabinet meetings before an acceptable formula is reached. PSP sources said Junblatt affirmed his stand to several visitors.

While Birri insists on his refusal to join the government, former President Sulayman Franjiyah insists on his own reservations and refusal to join the Cabinet. Prime Minister Karami said this is being dealt with in order to arrive at the desired results. Well-informed sources said Prime Minister Karami might meet with Franjiyah if Karami goes to the north on Sunday.

Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi yesterday said his ties with Franjiyah are ties of kinsmanship and a sharing of the same political line. He is in full solidarity with Franjiyah on any political stance he adopts. Ar-Rasi expressed confidence in Prime Minister Karami, stressing that this is mutual and longstanding.

Information sources suggest several solutions and proposals, some of which might lead to a settlement during the current contacts. These include the creation of a ministry or a development authority that will have broad powers in various Lebanese areas. The south will be given priority attention and the post will be assigned to a Shi'ite as a substitute for one of the portfolios assigned to Birri. The substituted portfolio will be assigned to a Greek Orthodox minister because the Catholics have objected to the fact that only one portfolio was assigned to their representative, Minister Joseph Skaf.

Well-informed sources suggest a formula to overcome Franjiyah's reservations by expanding the Cabinet to 14 ministers. One portfolio will be given to a Maronite minister of Franjiyah; one to a Greek Orthodox minister close to the Lebanese Front; one to a Sunni minister to be chosen by Karami; and one to a Shi'ite minister to be chosen by Birri.

Karami 'Optimistic'

NC041124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpt] Statements by officials regarding a settlement of the Cabinet situation range between pessimism and optimism. Prime Minister Rashid Karami said he still hopes that various obstacles will be surmounted. He stressed that various problems will be tackled until the desired results are achieved. Answering a question on the Cabinet situation, Prime Minister Karami said today:

[Begin recording] We can confirm that the situation is good, thanks to God, and will remain good as long as there is goodwill and cooperation. We shall find an appropriate solution to whatever is right. We are optimistic. [end recording]

Transfer of Office to Sham'un Postponed

NC040832 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The transfer of office ceremony due to be held today at the Housing and Cooperatives Ministry between former Minister Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat and present Minister Camille Sham'un has been postponed until a later date.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Sham'un

NC040903 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] President of the Republic Amin al-Jumayyil received at approximately 1100 [former] President Camille Sham'un to discuss the current situation, particularly concerning the government. President Sham'un has postponed taking over the Housing and Cooperatives Ministry from his predecessor, Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat. It was reported that the reason for the postponement is President Sham'un's desire to wait for a clarification in the government situation. On leaving the Presidential Palace, President Sham'un expressed his hope that the obstacles impeding completion of the government's composition will be overcome soon.

'Usayran To Give Priority to Rebuilding Army

NC031747 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran has said that the rebuilding, purging, and reorganization of the army must precede everything else. In a statement he made to the press news agency today, 'Usayran said that he will assiduously work for the dispatch of the army to the south to liberate it.

Minister Skaf Receives PRC Ambassador 3 May

NC040733 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Information Minister Joseph Skaf yesterday received the Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon before the envoy left Lebanon for China on vacation. They reviewed the developments in Lebanon and China's role in helping Lebanon, particularly as it is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Minister Skaf chaired a meeting at his residence. The meeting was attended by Information Ministry Director General Dr Manaf Mansur and National Information Agency Director Rafiq Shalala. Skaf was briefed on some documents, and the conferees reviewed certain information affairs. Minister Skaf denounced the assassination of Hanna Muqbil, secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union, and regarded Muqbil's assassination in these circumstances as causing the absence of a journalist who contributed to serving Arab issues.

Security Situation Still Tense in Beirut, Suburb

NC031948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The security situation remains tense on several axes of Beirut and its southern suburb. The sound of explosions and heavy weapons is still being heard despite the cease-fire agreements which have never got off the ground. It has been learned that the disengagement forces in Ra's al-Jabal abandoned their positions tonight, while those in Ra's an-Nab', following intensive contacts, returned to the positions they had abandoned this afternoon.

French Observers Target

NC031802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] The security situation overshadowed other local events today. The members of the Security Committee submitted reports to their quarters explaining the difficult circumstances under which they are operating and their fear that they will become false witnesses to what is happening on the level of the security situation.

The French observers protested that their positions are becoming targets of machine gun fire and sniper fire and affirmed that they will adopt a stand if their positions continue to be targets of armed attacks of various kinds.

A total of 14 people, most of them children, were wounded as a result of the mad shelling of the schools of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Al-Ashrafiyah. Explosions and gunfire are still heard on the axes of the capital and suburb.

21 Wounded in 3 May Clashes

NC040655 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpts] Twenty-one people were wounded in yesterday's clashes. The Security Arrangements Committee did not meet yesterday. Contacts were held between members of the joint operations room. These contacts continued until late at night and succeeded in easing the intensity of clashes. The fighting abated at dawn, although sniper fire and sporadic bursts of gunfire continue. Security reports say several observers returned to their posts in the Ra's al-Jabal area, from which they had withdrawn earlier.

Israelis Reportedly Reinforce Al-Biqa' Positions

NC031147 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' reports that Israeli forces over the past 24 hours have continued their military reinforcements on the frontline. They have brought in Merkava-2 tanks, which Israel has used for the first time.

Ihdin Radio on Israeli Raids, Arrests in South

NC040710 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces escalated their oppressive and arbitrary practices during the past 2 days against the sons of south Lebanon. Yesterday's reports said the occupation forces encircled the township of Ansar, raided the house of the town's imam, and arrested his two sons and another person. On the Batir-Jazzin road, the enemy forces arrested a Lebanese Army sergeant. They also arrested three citizens in Al-Ghaziyah. The raids by the enemy forces also included the township of Jba' al-Halawih, and three persons were arrested. The raids extended from the south to Western al-Biqa',where the occupation forces arrested eight citizens from the township of Al-Qir'awn after encircling it. The enemy forces bulldozed one of the houses and the town's farmland. These forces also set up a permanent position within the town.

Islamic Leaders Urge Support for Resistance

NC030605 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the republic, chaired a plenary Islamic meeting held in Dar al-Fatwa yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by former Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam, Taqi ad-Din as-Sulh, Nazim 'Akkari, and former Ministers Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Labban, Malik Salam, Nasib al-Barbir, and Amin al-Bizri.

The meeting was also attended by deputies Jamil Kibbi, Hasan ar-Rifa'i, Zahir al-Khatib, Talal al-Mir'ibi, and Nazim al-Qadiri. Former Prime Ministers Dr Salim al-Huss and Rashid as-Sulh. Deputy Zaki Mazbudi and Engineer Fu'ad al-Bizri did not attend.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting called for supporting the Lebanese areas under Israeli occupation and urged official and private media to give the Lebanese resistance its legitimate right. The conferees also urged all Lebanese, Arab, and international institutions to support the resistance. The conferees conveyed a special greeting to Sidon Deputy Dr Nazih al-Bizri and to the steadfast people confronting the Israeli enemy.

The conferees called for consolidating the cease-fire, reopening the port and the airport, and reopening the crossing points as soon as possible. They reminded the authorities of the need to tackle officially and speedily the serious condition affecting the national establishmeats.

Destruction of Phalangist Establishment Urged

NC031708 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] There can be no solution in Lebanon unless the Phalangist establishment is destroyed, and meetings and settlements will be useless as long as the Phalangist microbe continues to eat away at this homeland's entity. This is what an official political source told the Voice of the Mountain radio today. The source added: How can we participate in a government of leaders with Pierre al-Jumayyil, Camille Sham'un, and Amin al-Jumayyil as its members and on what political basis has the government of national unity met in B'abda while the Israeli Liaison Office is continuing its subversive work in ad-Dubayyah?

Replying to a question as to whether the new government will implement the political programs and projects that have been charted for it, the source said: Since the 1943 charter, the post-1958 revolution government, the 1975 dialogue committee, the conferences held in Switzerland for salvation, and up to the so-called national government, experience has taught us that there can be no reconciliation with the Maronite politicians nor can there be salvation unless their establishment, symbols, and military machine are destroyed.

Israel 'Concocting Conspiracies,' Military Operation

JN031526 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Efforts have continued to create the new Lebanon, and consultations have been intensified to relax the security situation to liberate Lebanese soil from the Israeli invasion and from U.S. attempts to topple Lebanon into the imperialist zone of influence. However, Lebanon's enemies, such as Israel and the U.S. White House, most affected by the Lebanese detente, are not concerned about saving the Lebanese from their crisis.

In order to maintain southern Lebanon, Israel is concocting conspiracies against the Lebanese and their national accord; and in order to turn Lebanon into a base of terrorism against the Arab homeland, the Americans are intensifying their moves and expanding their conspiracies against national Lebanon, which has pan-Arab aspirations. Since Syria is the effective Arab weight working for the sake of Lebanon, the U.S.- Zionist conspiracies must be directed against Syria, its steadfastness, and its firm stands towards Lebanon —the people, the land, and the pure Arab identity of Lebanon. This has caused Arab and international warnings about an aggression agreed on by the Zionist leaders and the U.S. Administration. Even the Arab circles which converge with U.S. diplomacy do not hide the reality of the U.S.-Israeli agreement aimed at directing a military blow to Syria.

If we look at Israel's moves, it will become clear the military concentrations in southern Lebanon are not unconnected with moving U.S. ships from the Mediterranean Sea to the Arab Gulf; neither are they separate from the efforts the two parties to aggression are exerting to abort the Lebanese national accord.

Israel, which is trying to blackmail the Lebanese national unity government by holding it responsibile for protecting the Zionist terrorists in Beirut, is actually trying to force the Lebanese Government to accept the legitimacy of the Zionist liaison office —just as it wants to force Lebanon to return to the 17 May agreement as an inevitable fait accompli. Since it is no longer unlikely that Israel will use its military force in Beirut and its suburbs in order to guarantee this objective, we must remind everyone that the Zionist terrorist cell penetrated the administrative borders of Tripoli, outside Beirut, to gather information that would serve this expected Zionist military operation.

Since the Lebanese prime minister has made the liberation of the south a top priority of national action for his government and the Lebanese people, Israel believes that military action is its only hope. If we take into consideration the war hysteria dominating the Zionist leadership, we will discover Israel is using the capture of its terrorist cell as an excuse —which will be added to other excuses it is trying to create —to push the entire region to the edge of war.

As Israel is ready to let the situation deteriorate with an excuse that will threaten world security, Syria, which adheres to its right to self-defense and to Arab identity for Lebanon and the entire Arab world, will not be less ready or less alert. This is in harmony with its pan-Arab ideology and the missions it shouldered to destroy the will of aggression and to achieve rights so that a just and comprehensive peace will be established that will serve both the people's will and their forces which seek truth, justice, and peace.

Mashariqah, Party Officials Visit Aleppo

JN031634 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Aleppo — Vice President Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and Comrades Tawfiq Salihah, Wahib Tannus, Sa'id Hamadi, Ilyas al-Lati, and Sulayman Qaddah of the Ba'th Regional Command met this morning with the party branch officials from Aleppo and the University of Aleppo.

The comrades explained the dimensions of the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies against our Arab nation and the objectives of the U.S.-Israeli threats against our country. They also asserted that under Struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, our country will continue to strongly and courageously confront and foil these plans. The comrades also asserted that our country's stands are principled and firm in confronting the attempts aimed at imposing capitulatory solutions and spreading U.S. hegemony throughout the region. They asserted that under President al-Asad, Syria is capable of retaliating against any aggression because it is armed with the will of the masses and with the support of the world's strugglers, the foremost of which is the friendly USSR.

The comrades noted our Armed Forces' honorable role in confronting the Zionist invasion of fraternal Lebanon and in maintaining the unity of Lebanon's territory and people. They asserted that toppling the May agreement is considered a victory for the Arab nation's dignity and will, and fresh evidence of the failure of the aggressive U.S. policy in the region.

Comrade Mashariqah and the comrade members of the Ba'th command condemned the course of capitulation and conspiracies being followed by the ruling regimes in Baghdad, Cairo, and Amman. They also condemned Saddam Husayn's unjust war against Iran's revolution and people which is being implemented on the instructions of the United States and Israel in order to remove fraternal Iraq from the circle of the Arab-Zionist dispute.

Jordanian Ba'th Party Condemns 'Arafat's Policy

JN031236 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Amman —An official spokesman for the Jordanian Ba'th Party Regional Command has made a statement in which he condemned 'Arafat for continuing to adopt the policy of ending the Palestinian people's national struggle for regaining their usurped rights. The spokesman explained that 'Arafat in his policy depends on the reactionary Cairo-Amman-Baghdad axis which enrolled him after taking several measures aimed at splitting the PLO, impairing its constitutional institutions, and scattering its forces away from the line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

The spokesman noted that 'Arafat's current visit to Amman takes place following a period of monitoring and waiting to get acquainted with the results of the Jordanian regime's contacts with the White House and the Zionist entity. The visit also takes place following the victory the Arab Lebanese people and their nationalist and progressive forces achieved through the abrogation of the agreement of humiliation and submission concluded on 17 May 1983.

The spokesmman condemned all the attempts that aim at changing the Palestinian nationalist situation in 'Arafat's favor and by his treacherous trend. He called for the need to expedite the building of a wide nationalist front in the Jordanian arena in order to confront the Husayn-'Arafat alliance, which aims at killing the will of both the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He said: While we declare our strict stand to our Arab masses in Jordan, we affirm we will continue to confront the policy of the ruling regime and those collaborating with it by all means of struggle until a nationalist and progressive regime is created —a regime that opposes the U.S.-Zionist plans and is able to intermingle the potentials of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples to liberate Palestine and to enable the Palestinian people to return to their land. He added: At the same time we warn all those trying to plot against the nationalist identity of our Jordanian people through the imposition of solutions at their expense and the expense of the Palestinian people, who accept only Palestine as their homeland.

Shamir Speaks on Nuclear, Terrorism Policy

TA040804 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 3 May 84

["Excerpts" of address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Tel Aviv Rotary Club on 2 May]

[Text] When we acted during operation "Peace for the Galilee" to put an end to terror along our northern border, and finish off the anomaly of a terror state (within a state) established in a neighboring country, criticism was directed at us for breaking rules of international conduct. But once the true face of PLO terror was uncovered, and soldiers and representatives of several countries entered the Lebanese whirlpool and were exposed to the harsh and complicated reality that reigns there, the attitude towards us and towards what we attempted to achieve changed considerably.

It appears there had not been a serious enough attitude to Libyan terror until what took place in London in recent weeks took place. That affair exposed not only the Libyan ruler's methods, (but), more importantly, it laid bare the cynical attitude and the complete disregard that governments such as Libya's have for every tradition and system held hallow by Western society, for international treaties as regards diplomatic immunities, for the conduct of negotiations between countries, and also for the sanctity of human life.

An even more outstanding example so characteristic of the type of concepts existing in this part of the globe is the Iran-Iraq war. Only four years before this war broke out, the two countries had signed a treaty settling the issues outstanding between them, whose source, in part, was a border conflict that had lasted decades. And then one morning the Iraqi ruler decided that the conditions that had developed inside neighboring Iran enable him to cancel, by use of force, everything he had agreed upon in the 1975 treaty. He paid a heavy price for that decision, and continues to pay it to this day.

This cruel war has implications for many countries, including Israel. Both Iran and Iraq have signed various treaties forbidding the use of unconventional arms such as chemical, gas, and nuclear weapons. In the course of the war it became evident that no intention exists to relate seriously to the obligations undertaken by these governments in the sphere of unconventional warfare. Evidence of the use of such weapons has already been brought against one of them, and repeated reports ascribe to both (countries) intentions of building atomic reactors that may provide them with the ability to develop nuclear weapons.

As is well known, many countries have entered the nuclear era and have begun acquiring and establishing nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes and for the supply of energy needs vital to their economy and development. Israel, too, being poor in natural and energy resources, has an interest in establishing power reactors. However, there is no simple solution to the clash between the standards, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the anomalous acts of a few regimes which damage the humanity of world society, and annul treaties and rules of behavior without worry of harm or punishment for their deeds.

Coordinated and united action taken by the democratic nations, whose power to isolate and punish the various international pirates is great, can prevent anomalies and minimize the potential damage of this danger. This depends to a great extent on the will and determination of the free governments. At the same time, the network of agreements and treaties that has set the standards in these basic spheres must be maintained and strengthened.

In the area of the peaceful use of the atom, Israel supports international treaties which will guarantee the status and immunity of nuclear reactors for energy purposes, and approves of the work of organizations and agencies established for these purposes by the international community. I will mention, for example the International Atomic Energy Agency, intended as a professional non-political body, which will be able to further the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as long as it remains faithful to the aims and agreements determined by its founders.

Essentially, even a free country that respects the universal norms of civilized society must guarantee its security first and foremost by its own means. If this is true for the nations of the free world, how much more true is it for Israel, some of whose neighbors continue to oppose its very existence. Only a generation ago we were a people without a country and with no means to protect ourselves. We were prey to every pursuer, and every conspirer of evil. Today any arm raised against an Israeli or Jew knows that sooner or later we will overcome it and demand full recompense for every wound.

Three Israeli citizens who work in our liaison office in Beirut lost their way yesterday and fell into the hands of Syrian soldiers stationed on Lebanese soil. We have asked the Syrian authorities, via a number of countries, to free them; So far, we have had no results. They were arrested on Lebanese soil far from Syrian territory.

There is no question that they had any connection whatsoever with Syria or the Syrian presence in Lebanon. We will regard with great severity any Syrian attempt to make false accusations against them, and we consider the Syrian Government responsible for their welfare and safety. We expect the Syrian authorities to free them soon and return them to the Lebanese, in whose territory and with whose permission they were operating, in the context of the Israeli Liaison Committee.

Shamir Meets French Minister on EEC Affairs

TA020915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The prime minister this morning conferred with the French minister responsible for EEC affairs, and asked him to prevent any damage to Israel's agricultural exports upon Spain and Portugal's joining the EEC.

The prime minister believes that Israel and the EEC should launch negotiations to alter the arrangements [hesderim] between them.

Arens Views Syrian Actions, Jewish 'Underground'

TA040842 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 May 84Political Supplement p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens by Eytan Haber "a few hours prior to the contest in the Herut Party Center yesterday" — place not given]

[Text]Question: Many of the Israeli captives currently held by the Syrians and terrorist organizations fell into captivity under circumstances that may be called dishonorable: Two NAHAL personnel who apparently were lackadaisical in discharging their duties; a Druze soldier, the circumstances of whose falling into foreign hands are not clear; a truck driver who either lost his way or was misled into taking a wrong turn; and now the three who went on a private trip. Is that not enough to worry you? Is this not an indication of negligence, a measure of rebelliousness and absence of discipline? Did these not light up a warning for you?

Answer: It would not be advisable to analyze these thigs so microscopically, as it will lead to the wrong results. One can look at this differently too: The IDF has been in Lebanon nearly 2 years under conditions that are not easy — facing the Syrians, the terrorists, and a population in the midst of which subversive groups are active. And if you ask me what kind of conduct the IDF soldiers have displayed throughout this period, the answer is: good.

Question: Is there room to warn the Syrians about the latest kidnapping incident in Lebanon?

Answer: We do not know all the details. Involved are three civilians affiliated with our representation in Lebanon, who reached the roadblock on the Beirut-Tripoli road by mistake. At the demand [derishat] of the Syrians, the Lebanese were forced to hand them over.

Question: Is this a betrayal on the part of Lebanon?

Answer: I am not familiar with the specifics of the case. I have no idea what kind of pressure was exerted on the Lebanese.

We do not know, for example, to what extent things were done by instruction, or without any order from the central government; how far this was the initiative of some sergeant major in the field, or what type of pressure was applied to him. Everything will be looked into. It is important that we obtain a precise evaluation in order to know exactly what happened. At any rate, the Syrians clearly acted out of order. It is sufficiently obvious that there was a mistake here. At first the Syrians thought the three were sneaking into their territory. Today it is clear to them that that was not the case. People in Damascus realize today that the people manning the Syrian roadblock pressured the Lebanese into handing the men over to them, and the Syrians should have returned our men. They have not yet done so.

Question: Did you really believe the Syrians would return them?

Answer: I wanted this to happen. I hoped so. As for a realistic assessment, I do not know. Perhaps it would have been convenient if the Syrians had said: This is a mistake, and we are correcting it without losing face or prestige. However, the fact remains that they failed to do this.

Question: Perhaps this was at the beckoning of Damascus?

Answer: Clearly what was done as a partisan act by the personnel at the Syrian barricade currently enjoys the backing of the Syrian Administration up to the highest echelon.

Question: Were you relieved this morning to hear the Syrian foreign minister saying that the three would enjoy the kind of status prescribed by the Geneva convention?

Answer: Naturally, contacts with the International Red Cross [IRC] ease our minds to a certain degree, and give us strngth and faith regarding the men's well-being. Evidently the Syrians are ready to allow the IRC personnel to visit them. This is good. It would have been still better had they returned them. We will continue to demand [lidrosh] this, and I have no doubt that they will ultimately be handed back. I hope this will happen soon.

Question: Have we nothing to say about the behavior of the Al-Jumayyil regime?

Answer: The greatest pressure that should be applied to the Lebanese Administration should come from itself. This is a test of Lebanese sovereignty. Here was a case of a violation of Lebanese sovereignty, and the government in Beirut should be interested in correcting this wrong and proving that it is actually a sovereign administration.

Question: What about the release of the captives from Syria?

Answer: We have contacts.

Question: Professor Arens, Amin al-Jumayyil has been biting our hand, the Shi'ites have been shadowing us, the Christians curse us — what are we doing in Beirut? Are we like the drowning man clinging desperately to the hollow reed?

Answer: Lebanon is our neighbor to the north, and what happens in Lebanon affects the inhabitants of Israel, certainly those residing in the north of Israel. Certainly there are many who want us to get out of there, or want us to build a wall between us and Lebanon so that we can live our quiet peaceful life on our side of the wall. There is no such wall. Therefore we would like to have the maximum influence on events there. Contacts between countries are important — a channel of communications is important.

Question: Only when both sides want it, though.

Answer: I would not like to go into detail regarding the functioning of our representation in Beirut. The fact is that this representation helps us maintain contacts. No doubt, if we closed the representation in Lebanon, this would have an adverse affect on our ties.

Question: Will you not recommend closing the representation?

Answer: Certainly not; on the contrary, we will do everything in our power and insist that the contacts remain.

Question: Are we on a course that leads to a military confrontation with Syria in light of the latest Syrian declarations?

Answer: If you mean the concept as proclaimed by Mustafa Talas, Syrian defense minister that war between Syria and Israel is inevitable, the answer is: No. It can definitely be avoided. If neither Syria nor Israel want war, there will be no war. These are two countries that are in charge of events, and Israel does not want a war.

Question: And the Syrians?

Answer: This is not clear. One can say with confidence — and this is a cause for concern — that at issue is an administration that has accumulated great military power, vast quantities of arms, and one that does not shun war. Therefore, war with Syria is possible. I hope this will not come about, and as far as we are concerned it will not happen. Nonetheless we must maintain a measure of alertness to be prepared for any eventuality.

Question: Does the barometer of security in the north rise and fall in parallel with the electrocardiogram of President al-Asad's heart?

Answer: A study of history has taught us that as a result of a war for the succession among rivals for the throne in totalitarian regimes, this could happen, and the conflict can be redirected against an outside enemy. This is not impossible.

Question: Could it be that a withdrawal from Lebanon, a redeployment, could be the Likud's gimmick for the next elections?

Answer: Israel's security interests are too important for us to allow ourselves to think about them as gimmicks, or to permit us to think that one decision or another could be made with an eye to the ballot box. Thus I can assure you that nothing of the sort will happen. Nothing in Lebanon was done out of considerations for the elections.

Question: Has our society become violent, extremist? Is extremism becoming a norm here, in light of the latest discovery of the underground?

Answer: I firmly reject your statements. Extremism has not become a norm with us. We have a very cultured society, judging by Western world standards. This is not to say that there are no exceptions to the rule. If you want to focus your attention on extremist figures — and I presume you mean the men who have recently been caught — then you are referring to people who are ready to resort to force, in a subversive manner, against Israel. I think in this case there are merely a handful, a small iota of an individual sector of Israeli society, in the fringes of society.

Question: Was it difficult to capture these fringe elements?

Answer: The fact that these men were captured is not accidental. The security services active here, that were successful, were not organized to operate against Jewish groups in Israel, and assumed that they would not be the source of subversive activity. From the very moment the suspicion was aroused that there may be groups withinthe Jewish sector — and this was already a few years back — the Security Forces had to prepare for action in that direction as well. This cannot be done overnight. The preparation and preliminary work had gone on for quite a while. In terms of intensity, the security services have prepared for that kind of action for some months now, started operations, and succeeded.

Question: But meanwhile the politicians ridiculed those who argued that a Jewish underground exists?

Answer: There was room for fear for some time. The murder at the Islamic College in Hebron definitely raised the possibility that it was perpetrated by Jews. Therefore it was necessary to prepare and take action.

Question: And how do you regard this phenomenon of a Jewish underground?

Answer: Most gravely, whether Jews or Arabs are its members. Any subversive activity against the government is damaging to the country and its citizens. It affects the goals we all believe in. I have no words firm enough to criticize and condemn this kind of activity.

Question: Have we "cleared" the area of the underground, or are there still some stray cats?

Answer: I cannot say. Let us wait another few days or weeks until all the publishable details are made known. I would like to believe this is a phenomenon afflicting only the margin of the margin.

Question: About another subject: Reports said that the two terrorists on the hijacked bus from Ashqelon were killed after the rescue operation. You were the senior person on the scene. If this truly happened, was this an issue for discussion then and there?

Answer: It was not. An inquiry commission is currently working on it, and I would suggest that we wait a while and look at the results of the inquest. When it is over, we will know everything there is to know.

Question: "We will know." Do you mean yourself, the Defense Ministry, or the public at large?

Answer: I presume the public at large will know everything that can be made known. This was an operation carried out by secret units and involving secret measures. We are persisting in our campaign against terrorism.

Question: Is there, or is there not, an instruction not to allow terrorists to emerge alive from a terrorist act?

Answer: There is no such instruction.

Question: What is our policy? Someone quoted you...

Answer: I said that terrorists involved in bargaining should not expect us to surrender to their demands [derishot] and let them leave the country. We will not give in or let them leave. This has been a long-term Israeli policy, and it must continue.

Question: But could a regular soldier in the field take your statements in their broadest interpretation and do what was done — if this was done at all?

Answer: He cannot just apply a broad interpretation to that statement, he should act according to explicit instructions that tell him what to do and what not to do.

Question: Was the thing that happened with the terrorists an accident, or does it attest to the quality of the decisions of the various ranks in the IDF or in any other establishment?

Answer: We are in the process of investigating this. I must disappoint you. You, me, and all the people of Israel must wait for the results of that inquiry.

Herut Center Elects Knesset Candidates

TA040559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] A surprise in Herut Movement Center voting: Defense Minister Moshe Arens was elected to the first slot of the Herut Movement Knesset candidates' list. David Levi, deputy prime minister, was chosen for the second slot. Minister Ari'el Sharon was chosen for the ninth slot on the list. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that of the various camps in the movement, David Levi's supporters managed to introduce the largest number of candidates into the 35 candidates' list, the panel, which was elected by the Herut Center yesterday. Of Sharon's camp, only MK David Magen was chosen.

The Following are additional slots: Yoram Aridor was chosen for third place, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar was chosen fourth, Moshe Qatzav was chosen fifth, Gid'on Gadot was chosen sixth, Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad was chosen seventh, MK Me'ir Shitrit was chosen eighth, and MI Roni Milo was chosen 10th. Of the Herut Party Knesset members who competed for a place on the panel, one did not manage to be chosen —'Aqiva Nof. Another surprise in the vote last night: Minister Mordekhay Tzipori achieved only 28th place.

Of the new faces on the panel: Head of Mif'al Hapayis [national lottery in Israel] Gid'on Gadot; Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, who was chosen 13th; and the head of the Shikun Upituach building company, Yehoshu'a Matza, who was 15th.

Our correspondents note that the order of slots is not final, and a decision will be made in a Herut Center vote that will take place this Wednesday. The results were received from the computer 12 hours after the beginning of the vote yesterday afternoon.

Minister Moshe Arens said no special importance should be attached to the fact Minister Ari'el Sharon was chosen ninth, since it is only next week that the center will determine the order of the slots. Minister Sharon said he honors the center's decision, but refused to say whether or not he views it as a personal defeat. Minister David Levi said he is not disappointed with the results of the elections since it is only next week that the order on the list will be determined, and the results may change. He emphasized he had not participated in meetings and contacts with Herut Center members prior to the vote.

Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad said he does not see the fact that he was chosen for a slot that is lower than former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor as an expression of no confidence in his economic policy. Mordekhay Tzipori said he is not happy about his 28th slot, but changes may still take place next week.

Syria Says Three Confessed to Espionage

Charges Denied

TA031836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Radio Damascus says the three Israelis captured by the Syrians in Lebanon have confessed to being on a spying and sabotage mission. Israeli officials reject the claim as totally baseless and point to a statement by the Syrian foreign minister that the captured Israelis are to be treated as prisoners of war and according to the Geneva Convention. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

They Syrians had claimed the three Israeli civilians were saboteurs within hours of their capture. Israel insisted they were civilian members of the Israeli liaison office in Beirut who went astray during a holiday drive up the coast. So, there was some relief in Israel when Syria's foreign minister announced yesterday that the captured Israelis would be treated as prisoners of war and according to the Geneva Convention.

They renewed charges this afternoon that the Israelis are saboteurs and claims that they have confessed to going on a spying mission are now being viewed with some concern. But, observers point out that the claims that are coming from Radio Damascus and from an unnamed Syrian official quoted by the Associated Press in the Syrian capital. And there was some speculation that this may be a response to Israeli media claims today that it was tough warnings from Israel which were responsible for the Syrians giving the three a prisoner of war status.

Israeli officials continue to say that any talk of spying or sabotage missions is totally baseless. The ASSOCIATED PRESS report quotes an unnamed Syrian official as saying the Israelis were heavily armed, had sophisticated wireless equipment, and other spying devices, and had put up heavy armed resistance before finally surrendering to the Syrians. Israeli officials say there is no evidence that the three engaged in any shooting. All reports indicate it was the Syrians who shot at the Israelis' car and the Israelis inside immediately retreated to a Lebanese Army checkpost where they were arrested.

The fact they were traveling openly on the main coast highway and not in any clandestine fashion only indicates they were out for a drive and did not realize they had strayed into a Syrian-controlled area.

As for the charge that the Israelis were armed, the ASSOCIATED PRESS quotes the spokesman at the Israeli Liasion Office in Beirut as saying the three men did in fact have pistols, but for self-protection only. Israeli officials here say they continue to view the public statements by Syria's foreign minister as operative, that the three Israelis are being treated as prisoners of war and according to the terms of the Geneva convention. Diplomatic efforts to get their release are continuing and Israel has also asked the International Red Cross to visit the three men and to report on their situation.

Spying Claims 'Baseless'

JN032018 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 3 May 84

[Radio Correspondent Dov (Rabinovitch) Dispatch, carried on the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Authoritative sources in Jerusalem have told me of their deep indignation and dissatisfaction with Damascus' attempts to describe the three kidnapped Israelis' presence north of the Lebanese city of Jubayl as a sabotage or espionage mission.

These sources said these claims are baseless and void, because how can anyone imagine that a group would carry out a sabotage or espionage mission on a main highway such as the road leading from Beirut to the North? This is what the kidnapped persons did. [sentence as heard] The Syrians themselves admit this road is a main thoroughfare. In addition, had those three people actually been on a secret mission, they would not have been carrying maps written in Hebrew to indicate that they are Israelis. The sources added that the three kidnapped persons did not have military ammunition. Their ammunition was an ordinary type that they used within the framework of their duties of being in charge of security and administrative affairs at the Israeli Liaison Office in Beirut.

Regarding what has been announced in Damascus — that the presence of the Israeli Liaison Office near Beirut is illegitimate and that this office does not enjoy diplomatic status — authoritative sources in Jerusalem stressed that the Israeli and Lebanese Governments agreed on the need to establish such an office even before the 17 May Israeli-Lebanese agreement was signed last year. This was done through an open and frank dialogue free from any foreign pressures.

These sources added: This office is a sign that the Lebanese side admitted the need to establish such an office in order to easily reach solutions to problems that resulted from the fait accompli in Lebanon in the wake of the battles for the safety of the Galilee. At that time, the Israeli and Lebanese sides exerted efforts to improve the situation, end terrorism, and restore sovereignty and independence to the legitimate central authorities in Beirut. Since this office was established, there has always been cooperation between the office and the competent Lebanese authorities.

Regarding the Syrian claims that the three Israelis' presence in the place where they were kidnapped is a provocative and premeditated action aimed at embarrassing the new Lebanese Cabinet led by Rashid Karami, authoritative sources in Jerusalem said that these claims are baseless and ridiculous. This is because Israel does not interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs and developments, including the formation of the new Lebanese Government in Beirut. These sources added that Israel only wants a strong and legitimate authority to be established in Beirut — one with which Israel can cooperate in order to achieve its interests, which are confined to guaranteeing security and peace on Israel's northern borders.

AL-ANBA' Calls For Release

JN030812 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 3 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rationalism and Responsibility," *AL-ANBA'* says: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday called for the release of the three Israeli detainees. He said that he holds Syria responsible for any harm that might befall them. Furthermore, Israeli officials reminded Lebanon that the three detainees were working in the Lebanese capital with the permission of Lebanese authorities and under Lebanese protection, and that they were kidnapped in Lebanon. This means that Lebanon humanely, ethically, and politically has a commitment to the detainees and Israel. The Lebanese will be doing the right thing if they do not ingnore this commitment.

AL-ANBA' adds: Even if the Syrian military presence in Lebanon has made Syrian hegemony on Lebanon strong and prevented Lebanese officials from practicing their right to sovereignty in their land, this presence will not justify any lack of commitment to those who are semidiplomats and work in Lebanon with Lebanon's approval.

Concluding, *AL-ANBA'* says: Not a single Israeli official or citizen likes to see relations with Syria become complicated or deteriorate. Thus, everyone in Israel hopes Damascus will think deeply and behave with full responsibility.

Kimche Deplores Capture

TA031157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 May 84

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche by an unidentified female BBC correspondent in London; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Kimche] We actually deplore the fact that they are in Syrian hands. I can only hope that the Syrians will act humanely towards them. We are taking all steps possible to take them back. I can't go into details.

[Question] Would Israel be prepared to negotiate directly with Syria for those three Israeli's return?

[Kimche] We have always been prepared to negotiate directly with Syria. You may know that we have today a fairly large number of Syrians — well over 200 — still in our hands from the Lebanese war, and the Syrians have a very small number of

Israelis in their hands. We have been only too willing to negotiate with them and to return those Syrian prisoners that we have in exchange for the ones that they have. Unfortunately, the Syrians have not been willing to negotiate with us, and that is the problem.

[Question] What were the three Israelis doing in (?that region) in the first place?

[Kimche] We have a continuing effort to liaise with the Lebanese authorities concerning many problems arising from the present situation in Lebanon, and they were involved in that.

[Question] If from there I could move on to the broader issues, particularly your relations with Syria — how prepared are you to have direct negotiations with Syria? Do you accept that in the long term that is bound to be the case?

[Kimche] Yes. We have said on a number of occasions that we are willing to sit down with the Syrians and negotiate with them a full peace agreement. We have said it publicly and we've said it privately to the Syrians. We are willing at any time to talk peace with any Arab country. I believe the crux of the problem in the Middle East and the most difficult obstacle, the biggest obstacle to having peace in our area, has been the refusal of the Arab countries so far to come to the negotiating table — with the exception of Egypt and Lebanon. If the Syrians change their attitude, we shall be the first to welcome it.

Suspects Confess to College Murder, Bus Sabotage

TA031631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Security Forces have written confessions by the suspects held in connection with the attempt to sabotage the Arab buses, the murder at the Islamic College, and the planting of explosive charges in mosques in Hebron. Two brothers living in Qiryat Arba' were the key figures in all these cases. The brothers were joined by a different partner in two of the incidents, that of the murder at the Islamic College and the attempt to sabotage the buses. The two brothers are graduates of elite IDF units.

The assassination attempt against the mayors is the only case that has not yet been solved. Some of the people arrested are suspected of having been involved in the assassination attempt. The investigators believe, however, that other people are involved in the case who have not yet been arrested.

More Groups Uncovered

TA040642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that in the course of investigating the Jewish underground, the Security Forces have uncovered a number of underground groups in the process of organizing. Some groups did not know about the activities of the others. When one of the groups decided to perpetrate the terrorist act against the buses, it was decided at the political level to stop the followup and to detain the suspects. Additional arrests are expected.

Last night, another suspect in the affair was detained. Our correspondent reports that the suspect is from the Qeshet settlement on the Golan Heights and is a reserves officer. Our correspondent in the north, Gabi Zohar, has learned that a branch of the underground was apparently active in a rented apartment in the Neve Sha'anan quarter of Haifa. Two of the detainees, Haifa residents, are suspected of aiding in planning some of the terrorist acts.

Our police affairs correspondent, Shlomo Raz, reports that in the investigation of the underground, it was discovered that the detainees had planned to carry out terrorist acts against groups of students in the territories. Among other things, they had intended to attack Bi'r Zayt University and possibly also Bethlehem University.

Progress was made last night in the investigation of the terrorist act against the West Bank mayors. It has been learned that some of the underground's acts were to be reenacted last night.

Pentagon Wants Advisers for El Salvador

TA030910 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Washington by U.S. correspondent Amir Oren]

[Text] Washington — The Pentagon wants Israel to send military advisers to El Salvador openly, as a demonstration of Israeli participation in the load the United States bears in Central America.

The Pentagon personality currently handling the issue is Fred Ikle, under secretary of defense for policy, who enjoys close ties with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Binyamin Netanyahu, minister in the Israeli Embassy in Washington, who reportedly serves as the contact man in Arens' ties with the Pentagon, said yesterday that he had only made contact once, "on a personal matter." Regarding the Pentagon's approach to Israel on El Salvador, Netanyahu said: "no comment."

The Defense Ministry may respond to the Pentagon's request favorably, in principle, but might put off implementation until after the Israeli election. Experts on El Salvador have expressed skepticism about the practicality of such a solution as far as the Pentagon is concerned, since it fears attacks by local insurgents.

The Israeli Government might try to persuade the Pentagon to partially lift its opposition on the disclosure of certain details regarding Israeli-American strategic cooperation. The Israeli argument for this will be the need to deter Syria from war.

So far the Reagan administration has been careful to impose a total blackout on the cooperation, but the Shamir government wants a certain degree of exposure that would allow it to point to close security ties with the United States, and argue this is the outcome of the war in Lebanon.

A U.S. official yesterday replied to a *DAVAR* question, regarding allegations that the Reagan administration was expecting Israel to show some military involvement in El Salvador, with a total denial, saying that if indeed the Pentagon had initiated contacts in that direction, it did not reflect the position of the Administration, which believes the Shamir Government would find it difficult to answer the opposition on this matter both at home and in Congress.

Britain Rejects Appeal for Oil Sales
TA040724 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 May 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Moti Basok]

[Text] About 1 month ago, Britain rejected a request by President Herzog, repeated last week by David Kimche, Foreign Ministry director general — made when the two separately visited London — to sell North Sea oil to Israel. Israel will appeal to the European Court in Luxembourg on the matter. During President Herzog's latest state visit to Britain more than a month ago, he tried to break the British embargo, but failed.

Austria Said To Be Initiating New Peace Plan
TA031058 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 4

[Report by Amnon Raz]

[Text] A top Austrian Foreign Ministry official secretly visited Israel last week and held meetings with personalities from the Alignment and the territories. This was reported by an East Jerusalem notable who met with the official.

The purpose of the visit was to examine the Alignment's position on the Palestinian issue, if and when it assumes power, and was preceded by a telephone converation held by Shim'on Peres and King Husayn during the former's last visit to France approximately 2 months ago, while the monarch was on an official visit to the United States. The call was arranged by the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and it was decided to keep it secret.

Encouraged and backed by Egypt and France, the Austrians initiated the converation between the two men as preparatory action for a new peace initiative planned by the Socialist International for when the Alignment wins the election. According to the plan, Israel would be asked to cease settlement activity and agree to give up most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas. The Austrians demand [dorshim] that King Husayn exercise a more liberal attitude toward the Palestinians in order to create an atmosphere more conducive for the plan to be accepted by the Palestinians. King Husayn, for his part, demanded [tava'] that the Austrians take action among the Arab countries to provide him with a mandate to speak on behalf of the Palestinians, since he is encumbered by the Rabat conference resolutions.

The Austrian emissary who visited Israel also told his interlocutor from the territories that both King Husayn and the Alignment leaders accepted the basic issues included in the plan. He claimed that the Alignment leaders agreed to conduct negotiations on Jerusalem as well. He also disclosed that in his meetings with Alignment leaders, they expressed optimism regarding the possibility that the Alignment would win the election. Personalities from the territories did not share this optimism, and advised the delegate to prepare an alternate plan should the Likud remain in power.

Asked to comment on the report, MK Shim'on Peres claimed there were no grounds for that report, and denied having a telephone conversation with King Husayn while in France.

EEC Urged To Adopt Legislation on Arab Boycott
TA031856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Industry Minister Gid'on Pat says Israel believes all European Common Market countries should adopt explicit legislation against the Arab boycott, like France and Holland. He told the French minister for Common Market affairs, Roland Dumas, that experience showed that no international firm had been harmed by the Arab boycott because of links with Israel. The French minister hoped that his country's example would be followed by others in the community and France would make its position clear on the issue.

April Tax Revenue Down 16.7 Percent
TA031101 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 May 84 p 1

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] The slump in tax collection continued last month with tax revenue totalling IS107 billion in April, about 16.7 percent less in real terms than in April 1983.

But according to the Finance Ministry, the drop in tax collection in April was "moderate" compared with figures for previous months. Between December 1983 and March 1984, month-to-month decreases of between 23 and 27 percent were registered.

The main cause of last month's drop was the slump in income-tax revenue and the continued fall in import levels.

In April the income-tax authorities collected IS51 billion, 26 percent less in real terms than in April 1983. According to the ministry, this decrease was caused by the fact that in April 1983 levies to finance the war in Lebanon were still being collected. The ministry said that the rise in the inflation rate and the drop in real wages also contributed to the decrease.

The continued decrease in imports caused a 25 percent drop in revenue from import taxes. Revenue collected totalled IS12.6 billion.

According to the ministry, import levels in April were considerably lower than in April last year.

Last month saw a 4 percent increase, in real terms, in Value Added Tax [VAT] revenue, to a total of IS34.7 billion.

The ministry explained that this increase was caused by legislative changes that forced firms to transfer VAT payments each month instead of every two months.

New IDF Radio Studios Established in Jerusalem

TA030526 [Editorial Report] Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 3 May announces that "the IDF Radio inaugurated new studios in Jerusalem today. The new studios will be able to take over from the IDF main studio in Yafo when necessary, and broadcast all over Israel. At the ceremony inaugurating the studios, the head IDF communications and electronics officer, Brigadier Heneral Moti Bar-Dagan, told the ITIM reporter that the communications corps had completed repairing two large radio transmitters that had been captured from the PLO in the Lebanon war. These transmitters will be put at the IDF Radio's disposal to make it possible for the broadcasts to be picked up by both the soldiers in Lebanon and the central Israeli region."

Jerusalem Court Sentences KAKH Members

TA031513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrates Court decided today that the KAKH Movement is one that specifically rejects the foundations of democracy in the State of Israel. The ITIM correspondent reports that the decision was made at the end of the trial of the movement's members accused of trespassing and attacking police officers. Four of them were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms of up to 120 days. Two of the accused were found innocent.

Involvement in Palestinian Assassination Denied

TA031855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] A PLO statement issued in Nicosia charges that Israel was behind the shooting [of Palestinian journalist Hanna Muqbil]. The Israeli Embassy in Nicosia has denied the PLO charge.

Lebanese Civilian Guard Commander Assassinated

TA031021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 May 84

[Text) Commander of the civilian guard in the village of ('Asiniyah) in Lebanon's southeastern sector was assassinated last night not far from his home. A pistol and the man's documents were found near the location. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that the background to the murder is in all probability a local conflict. Our correspondent notes that in this area, commanders of the civilian guard have been assassinated in the past. Then, too, it was against a background of local conflicts.

PLO Said Ready To Negotiate With Israel

TA021118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] 'Arafat's deputy, Abu Iyad, [Salah Khalaf], said the PLO is prepared to negotiate with any government in Israel that is prepared to recognize the Palestinians' rights. In an interview with the RAKAH official paper, Abu Iyad stressed the Palestinians would only be able to attain a state through negotiations. However, he pointed out the Israelis would only gain peace and security after the Palestinians had attained their rights.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Abu Iyad granted an interview to Tamar (Guzhansky), a member of the RAKAH Political Bureau. The interview was granted in Prague and has been published in the papers *ZO HADEREKH* and *AL-ITTIHAD.*

Terrorist Acts on IDF in Sidon Decreased

TA040722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] A senior IDF commander in the Sidon sector is saying that the number of terrorist acts against IDF soldiers over the last month has decreased thanks to various techniques adopted by the IDF. The commander told our correspondent Gabi Zohar that the terrorist acts are carried out in an almost accidental, unorganized manner.

The perpetrators are members of extreme religious parties, communist parties, and terrorist organizations. Sometimes the perpetrators are mere thugs who do these things for money. Common terrorist acts in the sector include throwing handgrenades and planting bombs on roadsides.

West Bank Muslims Called to Jordan on Temple Mt

TA031056 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 11

[Report by Amnon Raz]

[Text] The West Bank Muslim establishment fears an Israeli takeover of the Temple Mount. This is the reason for the emergency summons received by Muslim religious figures to come to Jordan and meet with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

The meeting was scheduled for yesterday, and the issue pf guarding the Temple Mount was on the agenda. The position of the Muslim establishment toward the Government of Israel with respect to guarding the Temple Mount, now being done by soldiers, will be discussed.

The meeting was set by senior Jordanian officials in light of the letter from the heads of the Supreme Muslim Council to Prime Minister Shamir on the desecration of the Temple Mount by border police personnel.

'New Ideas' Being Raised on Tabah

TA030943 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 4

[Report from the United States by 'Oded Granot and Ya'aqov Erez]

[Excerpt] Israel has informed the United States of its readiness to resume negotiations with Egypt on Tabah, in an effort to thaw the freeze in bilateral relations.

It has been learned that in the course of his meetings with U.S. Administration officials, David Kimche, Foreign Ministry director general, broached several new ideas to improve the atmosphere between Israel and Egypt, and thus also suggest a new approach to handle the Tabah crisis.

According to U.S. sources, Kimche's proposals have to do with the way the negotiations would be conducted, but they do not herald a substantive change in the Israeli Government positions on the issue.

According to U.S. sources, Kimche's proposals concern the way the negotiations would be conducted, but they do not herald a substantive change in Israeli Government positions on the issue.

The opinion is that the very fact Israel is raising new ideas on Tabah is aimed at showing its readiness to take action to ease the tension in Jerusalem-Cairo relations insofar as Israeli positions are concerned.

In addition to expressing Israel's readiness to take another approach on the Tabah issue, Kimche again expressed to the U.S. Administration Jerusalem's dismay with the "freeze" of the peace process imposed by Egypt. Israeli officials have found substance for this contention in Mubarak's declarations on severing diplomatic ties with any country that transfers its embassy to Jerusalem.

Ambassador Sason Views Relations With Egypt

TA271533 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 84 Political Supplement p 5

[Interview with Moshe Sason, ambassador to Egypt, by Smadar Peri; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Ambassador, no one is more familiar than you with Egypt's serious arguments against us. The Egyptians continually and repeatedly accuse Israel of failing to fulfill the obligations it has taken upon itself, and of violating the peace agreement.

Answer: No, this is not very precise. It is true that the Egyptians raise contentions that are sometimes phrased rather brutally and in a style we can justly claim fails to serve either the atmosphere of peace, pan-Arab interest, or even the Egyp-tian interests. That style rightfully causes great dismay in Israel, rather than makes us stop and listen attentively. Yet almost all these arguments, with the exception of possibly one, do not refer to the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, but to the first part of the "framework agreement" which we call the "Camp David agreements." As far as the peace agreement is concerned, no one is questioning this in Egypt.

Question: Not even among the Egyptian opposition circles?

Answer: No. Both among the ruling circles and even among most of the opposition parties, this is not the case. True, one does see in Cairo the slogan: "No to Camp David," but I did not see another saying: "No to the Peace Agreement." Although some parties are demanding reopening certain articles of the peace agreement now, still no one disputes the main point.

Question: But we here have been hearing, especially from what the Egyptian press prints, that there is blatant opposition to the state of peace between Egypt and Israel.

Answer: There are circles in Egypt and other elements that oppose even the peace agreement, but I cannot discern an Egyptian desire for war or adventurism — either among the people or among the leadership. It is not accidental that President Mubarak and his aides occasionally repeat their statement that "this is peace from which there is no return," and that "this is not a tactical move but a decision stemming from a strategic choice."

Question: In all honesty, what does it feel like to be Israel's ambassador in Cairo 2 years after the withdrawal, in the era of a cold peace?

Answer: It is certainly unlike the post of an Israeli ambassador anywhere in the world, nor is it comparable to any other post an Israeli has ever filled outside the country. It requires an unprecedented effort to try to create a fabric of relations between two countries that were previously engaged in deep hostility for decades.

Question: Beyond the Lebanese issue, what is the basic problem underlying the crisis in Israeli-Egyptian relations?

Answer: The phrase "crisis in relations" is extremely sharp, and I would hesitate to use it. This Egyptian method of highlighting differences of opinion in public rather than emphasizing what we share and working together continually to find a solution, is naturally not to my taste.

There is a serious problem in mutual trust. Our relations are suffering from the absence of a ministerial-level dialogue as well as from the absence of either an Egyptian readiness or capability to see things — or present us in the local media — as we truly are, with all our weaknesses, but with everything that is beautiful in us as well. This forms the main bulk of my work in Cairo.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B Links U.S. to Salvadoran Embassy Move

PM031538 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Apr 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Statements Are Not Enough"]

[Text] The Zionist oppressive practices are not confined to occupation, annexation, the building of settlements, and daily coercion and terrorism against the Palestinian people. The Zionist entity has gone further, to the point of trying to eradicate the Palestinian people's historical roots, desecrate the Islamic holy places, and defy all the Islamic states.

The occupation authorities have discovered that military might is not enough to destroy the Palestinian people, their revolution, and their identity as long as these people have their historical and cultural heritage, which keeps the Palestinian people eternally alive.

The Zionist entity's open insults to the Arab and Islamic nations are due to the lack of a united Arab-Islamic attitude toward the Zionist violations. Tel Aviv knows from experience the Arab and Islamic reaction will not go beyond recommendations and statements of protest and condemnation which never rise to the level of the challenges facing the Arab and Islamic nations.

The Zionist enemy's contempt for Arab and Islamic power is a result of the unconditional aid it receives from the U.S. Administration, but it is also more basically due to the absence of an Arab and Islamic deterrent reaction to the enemy's challenge and repeated violations.

El Salvador's decision to move its embassy to occupied Jerusalem falls within the framework of the Zionist Judaization policy. In fact, that decision was no coincidence. The U.S. and Zionist governments were behind it and their aim was to test the Arab and Islamic nations before the U.S. Administration decides to move its own embassy to Jerusalem. They figure that if the challenge is not met effectively, it will mean that the door is open for other states to follow El Salvador's example. That is why the participants in the Jerusalem Committee's mettings should not just issue statements of condemnation and denunciation. They must take effective measures against any state which follows El Salvador's example because, despite previous protests, the situation in Jerusalem has deteriorated further and the enemy is more adamant and intransigent.

Every Muslim expects all talk meant for local consumption to be cast aside and expects measures to be taken to prevent implementation of the enemy designs, a practical plan commensurate with the enemy's challenge.

LIBYA

Police Discover Weapons in British Embassy

LD040820 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Tripoli 4 May (JANA) — A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison announced that the Libyan police who searched the British Embassy yesterday evening, following the search of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London by the British police, discovered weapons inside the British Embassy safes when they were opened in the presence of the first counsellor of the Italian Embassy, Cardelli Tuarketo, and second secretary of the Italian Embassy, Marco Tornita.

These weapons are as follows:

1. Webley pistol No 787-38
2. Walther pistol No 501243 with 32 rounds of ammunition and a silencer
3. Smith pistol No 12159H
4. Smith pistol No 120745H
5. Smith pistol No 9110H; 14 rounds of ammunition for Smith pistols
6. 20 cannisters loaded with substances and gasses believed to be poisonous gas or nerve gas, and about 45 gas masks, which have been referred to the analysis laboratories.

The source told JANA these weapons had no licence from the responsible people's authorities in the Jamahiriyah and that when the registers of weapons licences granted to diplomatic missions in the Jamahiriyah were examined, it became certain the British Embassy in the Jamahiriyah did not obtain licences for these weapons.

Al-Qadhdhafi Raps British, U.S. 'Barbarism'

LD032115 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 3 May (JANA) — The brother commander of the revolution has categorically refuted the fabricated British allegations that the British police discovered arms and ammunition inside the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London. He stated these things were brought in by the police and that we do not accept responsibility for anything in the building, because it was under the British [word indistinct] authority which actually brought the explosives and used them in entering the bureau.

The brother commander was speaking at a press conference yesterday attended by correspondents of the world press, radio and news agencies. He said that at the beginning the British police placed a rifle in the keyhole and fired several shots to make an opening in the door. They then blew the door open with explosives. Therefore as of today we no longer recognize the existence of anything found in the bureau, because the British police used arms and explosives to enter the building. What the police have claimed is no more than barbaric British fabrications

with no basis whatsoever. Britain has proven itself to be an extremely backward country from a humanitarian and social point of view, exactly like the United States. These societies have exposed themselves, have proven themselves to be barbaric and have lost the respect of the world. It has been proven that we are the civilized ones. We are the ones opposed to the terrorism practiced by these countries, which have proven themselves to be foolish and trivial.

With regard to Britain's unilateral decision to sever relations with the Jamahiriyah, and whether the Jamahiriyah will reciprocate, the brother commander pointed out he does not have the authority to make such a decision and that the same applies to the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau. The Libyan people, through their basic conferences, are the ones who can make such a decisions. Therefore relations will remain unilaterally severed until the basic conferences in the Jamahiriyah convene at the end of the year and decide as they see fit.

Replying to a question about the terroristic way in which the British Government has been dealing with Libyan citizens in Britain and about whether the Jamahiriyah will treat the British in Libya in a similar manner, the brother commander pointed out there is no room for comparison between our behavior and that of Britain because we are civilized people whereas Britain is a barbaric state, as evidenced from the fact that it was Britain who colonized and destroyed the world. This proves its barbaric social backwardness backwardness other imperialist powers that brought miseries to Africa and Latin America, colonized by these powers for long centuries. This proves that these countries have no respect for the borders or freedom of others.

As far as we are concerned, we have not colonized anyone. Throughout our history we have been struggling to defend our independence against these sinister aggressors. Consequently our action cannot be the same as that of barbaric Britain. Our behavior is characterized by responsibility, civilization and respect for international norms. I do not believe the Libyan people in their basic conferences will act in the same way as Britain acted toward the Libyans. Britain is now condemned for its barbaric behavior toward Libyan citizens, students, tourists and diplomats alike.

The brother commander of the revolution pointed out that the countries of the world no longer feel secure in sending their citizens to Britain and the United States because they become subjected to persecution and house searches, as the Libyans are now. Even children have been searched and frightened at midnight by British and American policy. He affirmed that both international law and diplomacy are not respected in the two barbaric, antihumanitarian countries, and that what is now happening in Britain provides proof of this.

In any case, the commander said, I ask the Libyans not to treat the British in Libya as the British Government is treating Libyans in Britain, because its behavior is disgraceful and barbaric, and Libyan behavior should not be characterized this way. I do not believe the Libyans will do so.

Answering a question on whether the Libyan police had told the brother leader of the revolution about what they had found after searching the British Embassy in Tripoli, the brother leader said: I am neither a head of government nor a president of a republic, and therefore I do not deal with such issues; I am not privy to them. They concern the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison which was charged by the Libyan people at people's congresses with ensuring ties between the Jamahiriyah and other states. I do not know about any search.

Responding to a question on the repercussions of breaking off relations between peoples for the ordinary citizens, — considering it would limit their movements — the leader expressed deep regret over the step taken by the British Government suspending relations unilaterally, pointing out this step harms the ordinary Arab Libyan citizen and the poor ordinary Briton, who is ruled by a party, either the Conservative Party of the Labor Party. A British citizen does not rule at all, and will never be able to rule his country. A Briton is ruled on his behalf either by the head of the Labor Party or the head of the Conservative Party. I know the Labor Party is not a workers' party, as the workers are in one line with this party taking another.

Concerning the French presence in Chad and the claims circulated by France saying the cause of its colonizing Chad is the Libyan presence in this African country, the brother leader of the revolution said: I do not think so. We are prepared to withdraw any Libyan presence in Chad, because France is colonizing Chad under the pretext of a Libyan presence there.

The brother leader added: If there is any Libyan presence we are ready to withdraw it so that France withdraws its occupying forces from this independent African country. Now the ball is in the French court and the French Government is embarrassed before French, African and international public opinion because it cannot withdraw its forces immediately upon the Libyan announcement.

To a question over the struggle of the Irish people against British occupation, the brother leader of the revolution said: We consider the cause of Ireland a just cause, and if Britain calls Irish strugglers and noblemen terrorists, it is a British term and we do not recognize it. The Israelis and the Americans call the Palestinian mujahidin terrorists and saboteurs, but the world knows that the Palestinians are fighting for the liberation of their country, which has been occupied since 1948. We do not pay attention to names bestowed by colonialists on noblemen fighting for the independence of their country — as the Irish are.

The brother leader of the revolution said France also used to call Algerian insurgents saboteurs, and in the end it recognized the independence of Algeria and admitted that they were insurgents. Italy also called the Libyan mujahidin outlaws and highwaymen. Such names are known by history, and colonialists bestow them on every noble struggler confronting them.

For this reason, the brother leader said, we do consider the IRA [Irish Republican Army] a terrorist army; they have a just cause, the independence of their country. We have always said Ireland is Ireland and Britain is Britain, and the presence of the British in Northern Ireland is an unjustified colonial presence. The struggle of the Irish against British colonialism has been going on for hundreds of years. This is a just cause and we are not

ashamed of supporting it with all the means we have, all the more so after the fact that Britain has failed to appreciate our position, which was in its favor in recent years. We had stopped material support to the IRA in order to establish good relations with Britain, but Britain seems not to have appreciated this. Therefore we shall deal with these colonialists on a reciprocal manner with regard to this issue, because Britain is now protecting terrorists from among the stray dogs [Al-Qadhdhafi opponents in Britain] wanted by Interpol. We shall be obliged to deal in a reciprocal manner with any government protecting these terrorists sought by Interpol and those who are seeking refuge with the state police of such governments. Whenever such a state suffers from a wound and we are able to rub salt in such a wound, from now on we will do precisely this.

The brother leader of the revolution explained: "We know the IRA and its leaders because we cooperated with them in the early 1970's before we stopped sending them material support. If Britain was able to cooperate with masked terrorists and stray dogs who fled from justice and law, how can we not meet or recognize noble strugglers like the leaders of the IRA. At any rate we consider the cause just, and we support it with what we can.

In his reply to a question about the countries that will be affected by the Jamahiriyah's warning about harboring terrorists, the leader said: "I will not mention the names of specific countries except Britain and America. However, I address this warning to any government that protects Libyan terrorists wanted for justice and by Interpol. Every country must weigh its responsibility and interests as well, and should not be dragged along behind the American madness, which intends to sacrifice Europe for the sake of America. America wants to sacrifice Europe in a new world war. It deploys the missiles in Western Europe so that the first Soviet strike will be directed toward Western Europe and so that Europe will be finished before America.

The brother leader continued: "Western Europe is in danger because of the U.S. policy that placed it under the muzzle of the gun. America also wants to sacrifice European economic interests — big interests, with Libya itself and with the Arab and African countries — to satisfy the reckless, irresponsible U.S. policy."

The brother leader added that Reagan should apply his foolish, tragi-comic policy to his country alone, because Europe has its own governments responsible for formulating policy toward Libya and others.

Answering a question about the security and safety of the British citizens in the Jamahiriyah, the brother leader stressed there is no danger. I have stressed since the beginning that the Arab Libyan people would not be barbaric like the British Government and behave cruelly toward innocent people. At any rate, if anything happened and the British citizens were harmed, the responsibility would be on the shoulders of the British Government, because it created this problem from beginning to end. It attacked the bureau and opened fire, and it recruited the spies from the Middle East with money. It attacked with helicopters and armed police and unilaterally severed relations with us. It stormed the People's Bureau and blew it up, and treated the Libyans barbarically and still is, chasing the Libyan students and subjecting them to British intelligence and the terrorists wanted by Interpol.

The brother leader said the British Government is responsible for all that has happened from beginning to end, and that, facing this unprecedented action, the British people should have toppled this government, because what it has harmed the historical reputation of the British.

The brother leader said that if a government is replaced by another government or a party by another party nothing will change. However, the British people should put themselves in place of these tools through the people's conferences and the people's committees, so that healthy relations can be established between the Libyan people and the British people, and not between the Libyan people and the British Government.

The brother commander affirmed the world's problems will not be solved until these governments have vanished and been replaced by the peoples and jamahiri republics, so that peace may reign among the peoples and relations based on a popular basis.

Speaking of the economic consequences of the British and American attitudes towards the Jamahiriyah, the brother commander affirmed that if Britain persists with its terrorist policy, its economic interests will suffer. He said that you should know, and so should the U.S. Government which is waging an international campaign against Libya, that a country like Libya cannot be harmed by any siege. Sieges affect the advanced industrial countries with sophisticated and complicated industries founded on vital interests that have to be imported from abroad. But the Libyans, who number 2-3 million, do not need the world. We can live within our borders for 100 years without being affected. There is nothing important and basic that we want from abroad. We can do without these things, such as toys and sweets.

The brother commander affirmed that sieges are of no avail with Libya and countries like it. Sieges have no importance for us. Only the advanced countries are affected. We still live on livestock and simple agriculture. Thus we will lose nothing by sieges. Indeed, we will feel better and rely more on ourselves. When we are beseiged, we dispense with trivial consumer goods which we import from these countries that are affected by seiges since they need oil, particularly the excellent Libyan oil for which their refineries and plants have been designed.

The brother commander added that the advanced countries are the ones that need Libya to pass through its skies and seas. Libya is a country of no small importance. It stretches over a distance of 2,000 km on the Mediterranean and inside the Arab homeland. It is the gateway to Africa from the north. It is the country that polarizes the masses of the Arab, African and Latin American nations and the peoples of Asia are struggling for freedom, independence and socialism. Furthermore Libya is a reliable friend of the socialist bloc headed by the USSR, which represents half of the earth. Libya is also supported by all the liberation movements and all the peoples of the socialist bloc.

The brother commander affirmed that the advanced countries who contemplate pursuing such a policy will only isolate them-

selves and besiege themselves through the miscalculations and shortsightedness of Reagan and people like him in Europe. He pointed out that Reagan cannot be blamed because he is not familiar with politics, and that we cannot be as good an actor as he is. We do not consider that a fault, but we know that he is not good at politics.

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Syria 'Next Week'

LD031632 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1609 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (KUNA) — Arab diplomatic sources said here today that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will arrive in Damascus during the next week for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the conditions in the Arab region, bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Both Hafiz al-Asad and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi agreed during a recent telephone conversation to hold a summit meeting. It is worth mentioning that Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Revolution Council in Libya, visited Damascus twice during the last month.

AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR on U.S.-NATO-Zionist Plans

PM031004 Tripoli AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 30 Apr 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Major Concern"]

[Excerpts] Since the serious setback the Zionist plans have suffered with the scrapping of the 17 May agreement and the defeat inflicted upon the U.S. forces and its crusading allies in Lebanon, the United States and the Zionist entity are engaged in feverish military and political activities with the aim of rearranging the situation in the Arab area to serve their objectives and plans.

The downfall of the 17 May agreement has proven the inevitability of the Camp David agreement's downfall. It has also proven the impossibility of any agreement between the Zionist entity and any Arab party at the expense of Arab existence and the complete liberation of the Palestinian Arab territory. The defeat of the U.S. forces and their crusading allies was also a serious blow to the future of the U.S. crusading presence in the Arab homeland and the U.S. strategy in the area. The defeat of the U.S. forces was the first defeat for the United States of its kind in the area despite the fact that it has used its latest and most powerful battleships and aircraft. This defeat has also shown that the United States is not an invincible force and that the Arabs are no less capable of fighting than the peoples that have fought and humiliated the United States. For this reason it was natural for the United States and the Zionist entity to seek to repair their image which has been dealt a blow and lost the ability to inspire mighty strength; they want to rearrange the situation in the area to regain their prestige and domination.

The area is witnessing U.S.-NATO-Zionist movements in several directions in order to achieve this colonialist objective, and probably one of the first priorities of the U.S.-NATO-Zionist movements is to try to throttle the Jamahiriyah, the throbbing heart of the world liberation movement and the decisive element in the national counterattack aimed at thwarting the imperialist plans and projects. The imperialist criminal attempt at throttling the Jamahiriyah is manifest in the colonialist and reactionary campaign which reached its climax last week in Washington, London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Khartoum and all the capitals under U.S.-Zionist influence. Exploiting the St James's Square incident, which the British authorities have fabricated, these capitals have called for tightening the seige around the Jamahiriyah and quickly dealing a preemptive blow to the people's authority in it.

This campaign — which we do not think was a coincidence — was launched simultaneously with the terrorist bill which Reagan submitted to Congress in order to obtain the right to deal strikes against the countries which embrace what he calls terror. By this he actually means the revolutionary countries that reject U.S. domination and support liberation movements throughout the world. There is no doubt the Jamahiriyah is in the forefront of these countries to which terrorist Reagan is referring. Dealing a blow to the people's authority in it has been the major concern of the cowboy since he entered the black house and a principal platform in his election campaign.

The second axis of the U.S.-NATO-Zionist movements is to rearrange the situation in the area to serve their objectives and plans by the Zionist enemy's military buildup with the direct support of the United States on the frontlines with the Syrian Arab forces in Al-Biqa'. This aims to deal a blow to this Arab country that stands as a stumbling block in the face of the Zionist-U.S. plans in the Arab east, the country that together with the Jamahiriyah played a basic role in thwarting their plans and causing their defeat in Lebanon.

As for the third axis of the U.S.-NATO-Zionist movements to rearrange the situation in the area, this is evident in U.S.-British-French colonialist activities near the area preparatory to intervention. These imperialist countries under the U.S. leadership had often threatened to occupy the Arab Gulf region under the pretext of protecting it from the dangers of the Iraq-Iran war. Reports say Britain and France have informed the U.S. Administration they are prepared to intervene in the Arab Gulf to protect what they term European interests. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's tour of the Arab Gulf in the past few days was part of the U.S.-NATO-Zionist movements as Murphy has tried to obtain further military facilities and bases and conclude secret agreements that would legitimize any U.S.-NATO intervention there.

These feverish U.S.-NATO-Zionist activities can be thwarted and defeated just as they were in Lebanon. The basic condition for achieving this is the cohesion of the Arab revolution forces, the mobilization of all resources, and the escalation of the national counterattack to the furthest extreme.

U.S. Official's Visit to Sudan Previewed

LD031759 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Washington, Shaaban 3, May 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American State Department

announced yesterday that the American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker will visit Khartoum during the coming few days to hold talks about the situation in the Sudan.

It is known that he is responsible for execution of American dirty conspiracies and supervises with some agent regimes operations of oppression and terror and became popular during last years as the mastermind of American plots in Africa and he had prepared plans to protect agent regimes in Zaire and Ivory Coast and was behind destabilization plans in Chad, Ghana, Upper Volta, Benin and others. Chester Crocker's visit to the Sudan is within the frame of preparation under way by Washington in the country where hireling Numayri's regime faces total collapse and the American Government is trying to break through the Sudan in order to confront the Sudanese people revolutions and carry out terrorist plans and plots against the Ethiopian and Chadian peoples and the Libyan Arab people who firmly reject policy of hegemony followed by the American Government which has become today the real face of terrorism in the world, according to what it did in Grenada, Lebanon and others of shameful actions.

Sudan's Oduho on Opposition Movement's Aims

LD030922 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Geneva, Shaaban 3, May 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The head of the Political and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, Joseph Oduho, affirmed that the movement which was set up last July is fighting for a united socialist Sudan and for toppling hireling Numayri.

In a statement in Geneva commenting on the imposition of the state of emergency in Sudan, he said that Numayri is trying to subjugate and to control the Sudanese people.

Palestinian Factions Denounce 'Arafat Plans

LD031809 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Damascus, Shaaban 3, May 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Different factions of the Palestinian resistance have strongly denounced statements by 'Arafat in which he promised to move the PLO's headquarter to Cairo, to negotiate with the enemy and to drop the military option.

The official spokesman for the General Command said, guided by Washington, 'Arafat is seriously working towards liquidating the Palestinian revolution and the steadfast Arab forces, splitting the PLO, asking King Husayn to represent the Palestinian people and the application of U.S. design on the whole Arab area. He then called on the revolutionary forces to unite against 'Arafat's plot by escalating the Palestinian national resistance. Member of the Palestinian Struggle Front's Politburo, Khalid Majid, commented by saying "These statements do not represent the Palestinians' national struggle, they only reflect 'Arafat's Camp David approach." "The Palestinian masses know how to stop 'Arafat's deviation from the track of liberation," he concluded.

The Joint Command for the PFLP and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in a communique yesterday, condemned 'Arafat's statements as aiming to give the Egyptian regime contract of innocence, to speed up Camp David process and to split the Palestinian forces.

COMPARISON OF LIBYAN PROTEST MEMO

Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 3 May carries a report on the Libyan memorandum to world bodies. The JANA Arabic version has been compared to the Tripoli Domestic Arabic version published on page Q1 of the in the 3 May Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, revealing the following alternative final paragraph:

The memorandum says: The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, while warning of the gravity of this policy and its destructive effects on the cause of peace and security in this region and in the world, will strive, in accordance with its legitimate right to self-defense, with all the means at its disposal, to repel aggression. It hopes the fraternal Arab states will shoulder their responsibilities resulting from the Arab League charter and the joint defense pact.

MOROCCO

Moroccan Foreign Minister Leaves for Athens

LD031915 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Rabat, 3 May (MAP) — Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelouahed Belkziz left Rabat today for Athens within the framework of the task entrusted him by the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference held in Baghdad 14 March.

This conference decided to set up a committee to follow up the implementation of decisions pertaining to special efforts exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war. During the meeting held in Tunis on 29 March the itinerary of the visits to be made by Arab foreign ministers to various world capitals was prepared, and within this framework the Moroccan and Tunisian foreign ministers were entrusted with the task of visiting Greece and Portugal to hold talks with officials of those two countries in light of the decisions taken by the conference.

SUDAN

Numayri Addresses New Ministers 3 May

JN031802 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri addressed the new ministers of state after they were sworn in before him at the People's Palace this morning.

The president called on the ministers and all leaders to be a good example for their employees in both their appearance and their behavior, and to take the necessary administrative and behavioral measures regarding the work inside the institutions and ministries to avoid favoritism, especially concerning relatives,

friends, and acquaintances, because all this would take place at the expense of the state budget and the people.

The president also called on the leaders to periodically inspect their units and institutions. He also called for modesty regarding male and female workers, and for avoiding bad habits and behavior.

[Khartoum SUNA in Arabic at 1723 GMT on 3 May in its report on Numayri's meeting with his ministers and call for them to be good examples, concludes with the following paragraph: "Attending the meeting were General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president and head of the state security organ; Joseph Lagu, vice president; and Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, presidential assistant for foreign policy."]

Pensions State Security Officers

JN031842 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a presidential decree today in which he put 15 officers of various ranks in the state security organ on pension for poor performance and in order to improve the performance in the state security organ. These officers are: four colonels, two lieutenant colonels, five majors, one captain, and two lieutenants.

The president of the republic also issued a presidential decree dismissing a major from the state security organ on the grounds of breach of trust.

Supply Minister Discusses Improvements

JN031857 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA) — Ja'far Hasan Salih, minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply, has said a program has been prepared to remove the obstacles and negative points in the ministry, and committees formed to review the laws, regulations, and and measures concerning the ministry's work in order to protect the citizens' needs and provide commodities in accordance with the emergency law.

In a statement he made today after taking the oath of office, the minister said efforts will continue in this regard in accordance with the state's commitment to implement Islamic law, and in accordance with instructions the president gave during his recent visit to the ministry regarding the flow of information in order to guarantee that sound decisions are made, supply crises ended, and the masses' suffering alleviated. The minister pointed out that he has actually begun a series of meetings in this regard.

Ja'far Hasan Salih met this morning with the ministry's directors and their deputies. He explained to them the ministry's great and important role, and the president's concern about improving its work.

Locations for 6 Emergency Courts Announced

JN031539 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA) — The location of the emergency courts has been defined in the national capital. Three courts will be located in the Khartoum region; two courts will be located in the Omdurman region; and one court will be located in (Khartoum Bahri).

It is noteworthy that the day before yesterday President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued an emergency order that formed emergency courts in the national capital and defined their procedures in accordance with the provisions of the emergency regulations for 1984.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Luxembourg

JN032159 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, May 3 (SUNA) — The Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the Duchy of Luxembourg have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the embassies level as from today, May 3, so as to achieve a common desire on consolidating relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

TUNISIA

Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan Arrives in Tunis

JN031848 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan arrived in Tunis today on a 4-day visit. During it, he will chair the meetings of the independent committee for international humanitarian issues, which will begin its work in Al-Hammamat tomorrow. The meetings will last 3 days. His highness was received at Carthage Airport by Mohamed Mzali, Tunisian prime minister and interior minister; Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan; a number of senior Tunisian officials; and the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Forces Defeat Moroccan Troops

LD032239 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Ministry of Information and Culture today issued a statement at Houza in the liberated territory saying over 350 Moroccan soldiers, including officers and noncommissioned officers, were killed, and 400 others injured during an offensive launched by the Saharan Popular Liberation Army against the royalist forces concentrations behind a sand wall in the area of Graret El Moulat.

The statement said that the attack began yesterday morning and continued until the afternoon of the same day, resulting in considerable material losses among the royalist Moroccan forces. These were the destruction of 18 armored mechanized vehicles,

65 light trucks, 25 artillery pieces of different caliber, rocket launchers, 28 gun emplacements, an arms cache and a large number of heavy machine guns.

The statement points out that because of the ferocity of the battles, the Moroccan command sent four units from Zag and other points, as well as several aircraft squadrons to save its forces, but all this was of no avail and could not save the royalist forces from defeat.

The Saharan statement said that the successful battles waged by the Saharan Popular Liberation Army since 21 April against the royalist Moroccan forces in the area of Graret El Moulat affirm anew the will of the Saharan people to secure the final liberation of their homeland.

Concluding, the statement says the Moroccan regime must be convinced that the policy of military escalation will not lead to any solution and that the regime will sooner or later have to come to the negotiating table, which is the sole honorable solution to save Morocco from the economic and political impasse it finds itself in and to save the Moroccan people from further pointless sufferings and tragedies.

CHAD

Gabon Envoy Comments on Bongo Crisis Proposal

AB032125 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Yesterday a Gabonese envoy gave a message to the president of the Republic of Chad, Hissein Habre, from his Gabonese counterpart, El-Hadj Omar Bongo.

Guy Nzouba did not, however, reveal the contents of this message, but before leaving for other African capitals the Gabonese minister-delegate in charge of commerce and consumption referred to the proposal made by the Gabonese head of state for a solution to the Chadian crisis within the framework of the former French Equatorial Africa [AEF]. [Words indistinct] the Gabonese envoy asserted that what is happening in Chad concerns all the members of the former AEF, that is Gabon, the Central African Republic, Congo, and Cameroon.

President Bongo's proposal to try and find a solution to the Chadian problem within this political framework is very (?practical), he said. [Words indistinct], Guy Nzouba added that Gabon was prepared, as much as possible, to help President Hissein Habre to restore peace to Chad. The Gabonese envoy, who was accompanied by a top Gabonese official, left Ndjamena yesterday evening for other African capitals.

Bardai Cites Goukouni on Reconciliation Prospects

AB032155 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] In a statement to the press, President Goukouni has disclosed that the government has been contacted by two friendly countries — Congo and Algeria — in the framework of negotiations towrd national reconciliation.

In reply to these two countries, he said that as long as their requests have not been backed by the chairmanship or by the General Secretariat of the OAU, the Transitional National Union Government will not be able to accept them. There is no national reconciliation with the Ndjamena group outside the OAU's framework.

At the same time, President Goukouni denied some reports concerning the situation in the north of the country, saying that there is a perfect understanding between us and the Libyans.

Bardai Reports ANL Captures Ministers, Officials

AB032023 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Two of Ndjamena's so-called ministers, and several top officials [words indistinct], have fallen into an ambush laid by commandos of the National Liberation Army [ANL]. The incident took place between the town of Mongo and the area of Biltine across the Red Line. The two members of the Ndjamena group and their followers have been taken prisoner by the ANL.

CONGO

Guinean Prime Minister Interviewed on Coup

AB032108 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] In continuation of his tour to explain the reasons for the coup in Guinea, following the death of President Sekou Toure, the prime minister of that country, Colonel Diara Traore, visited the People's Republic of Congo 2-3 May. During the audience that the president of the republic granted him this morning, the Guinean prime minister gave more details on what happened in Guinea. The two statesmen also discussed bilateral relations between Congo and Guinea. Answering reporters' questions, he spoke to our correspondent, (Ndorase Bebeka), on the forthcoming OAU summit, the participation of the SDAR, the return of exiles, relations between Congo and Guinea, and the political future of his country:

[Begin recording] [Traore] Concerning the 20th summit, we said that we respect the decision made at the 19th summit. But we must see things the way they present themselves. Today, Guinea is passing through a difficult situation, in view of the change that we have just brought about. At the moment, the hosting of the 20th summit is a principle. We said that we are on a goodwill mission sent by our president — President Conte — and that after making contacts with the various heads of state, Guinea's stand on the hosting of the summit will then be well defined. In fact, we have discussed the issue of the 20th OAU summit with President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and we obtained from him very brotherly advice. [Words indistinct] whether or not the 20th summit will be held in Guinea. What is certain is that the OAU has a headquarters. In the absence of Guinea, we can hold the 20th summit at the OAU headquarters. Then, Guinea will be prepared to host the 21st summit. That is what I can say about the OAU.

Concerning the SDAR, I must confess to you that we base our arguments on principles. The 19th summit clearly stated — concerning the SDAR — that there should first be a ceasefire. Before the ceasefire, the two warring sides must hold a meeting which will be followed by the ceasefire and then a referendum. All these principles must be respected, and Guinea sticks to that. All we can say on this issue is that we support the resolutions of the 19th summit in Addis Ababa.

[Bebeka] Mr Prime Minister, with the coming to power of the military, Guinean exiles hope to return home. What is the new government doing to cope up with their return?

[Traore] We want this return to be as simple as possible. These exiles are Guineans, brothers who left the country for one reason or the other, and who have their way of seeing problems. Like other Guineans who remained in Guinea, these exiles experienced the same fate and the same sufferings. We called on these brothers to come back to their fatherland and put themselves in the service of their fatherland. Each one of them should assist his country in the field he can. We have already set up a welcoming committee and already we can say that more than 100 Guineans have returned to Conakry [words indistinct].

[Bebeka] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister. I would like to know, following the recent change in your country, how you see your country's relations with Congo.

[Traore] Relations with Congo were good, and today they are still good. Tomorrow we believe they will be excellent.

[Bebeka] What is the fate of the country's former leaders?

[Traore] The Guinean fate.

[Bebeka] Which one?

[Traore] The fate which is equal and [words indistinct]. That is all I can tell you.

[Bebeka] Mr Prime Minister, with the coming to power of the Army, the question of belonging to the progressive camp — which Guinean has always belonged to — arises. Today, in which camp is Guinea?

[Traore] In the world everybody is progressive in his own manner. Guinea belongs to all the camps, in particular to the camp that has confidence in it, which respects its dignity, and would like to work sincerely with Guinea. That is all I can say on this issue. For us, there is no East, West, North, or South. For us, all friends who want to cooperate very sincerely with Guinea, within the framework of cooperation, are most welcome in Guinea.

[Bebeka] Do you plan to create a party?

[Traore] This is a problem that will be discussed in the future. For the meantime, we are trying to tidy up the house. [end recording]

GABON

Bongo Holds Talks With Guinea's Traore

AB022122 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] The president of the republic, His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, is continuing his visit to the Haut Ogoue region. Yesterday, El-Hadj Omar Bongo held talks in Franceville with Colonel Diara Traore, Guinea's prime minister. The 2-hour talks enabled the two men to analyze ways and means to revitalize cooperation between Guinea and Gabon in order to achieve a harmonious economic and social development of the two countries. During the talks, Traore, who was at the head of his country's delegation, informed the architect of new Gabon of the development in the situation prevailing in Guinea. With our correspondent [name indistinct] in Franceville, let us summarize the Guinean prime minister's visit to Gabon:

[Begin correspondent recording] The Guinean prime minister, Col Diara Traore, left Franceville on Wednesday morning after a 48-hour working visit. For 2 days the Guinean prime minister and the president of the republic, His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, who is continuing his visit to the Haut Ogoue region, held talks [words indistinct].

During an audience he granted to the Gabonese press on Tuesday, Col Diara Traore expressed satisfaction with his meeting with President Omar Bongo. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere and resulted in a similarity of views.

We have been enlightened by President Omar Bongo and we were impressed by his manner of analyzing problems, Mr Traore said. According to the Guinean prime minister, the visit was aimed at explaining the reasons that led the Military Committee for National Recovery to seize power in Guinea.

In his reply, President Omar Bongo gave him the necessary advice to enable Guinea to enter a true era of economic progress.

On the bilateral plane, as I mentioned a while ago, the Guinean prime minister said that he suggested to President Omar Bongo that the two countries should exchange ambassadors accredited by Libreville and Conakry.

On the OAU 1984 summit, Col Diara Traore said that his country is planning to host the 20th summit, however, no date has been fixed yet. He said: We want to conclude first contacts aimed at assessing the situation with the heads of state before we decide the date of the summit.

On Western Sahara, Col Diara Traore strongly denied that he wanted to invite the Saharans to the next OAU summit. According to the Guinean prime minister, Guinea is sticking to the resolutions of the 19th OAU summit — a cease-fire between Morocco and the Polisario and the organization of a referendum in the Western Sahara. The prime minister said he was highly impressed by his visit: We are going back highly impressed, with the fervent hope that our people will achieve the dream of prosperity which they have been nursing since 1958. They have suffered so much in patience and abnegation. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Kinshasa Reports on Angolan Cooperation Talks

AB031650 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1745 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] Kananga, 2 May (AZAP) — Zaire and Angola are committed to a true path of consolidating their historical and long-standing ties, improving their relations of good-neighborliness at all levels, deepening and diversifying their cooperation, and maintaining permanent contacts between them.

The meeting that took place at Tshikapa in mid-April between Citizen Zamundu Agenongha Kasongo, regional chairman of the MPR and governor of the western Kasai Province, and his Angolan counterpart, Silverio Gelin Paim Kadindamo, coordinator of the Luanda north provincial committee, has testified to this desire of the Kinshasa and Luanda authorities, who are determined to work toward the harmonization of human relations between the two peoples. Over a 3-day period, in an atmosphere of perfect mutual understanding, the Angolan and Zairian delegation discussed issues of common interest and stressed the need for peace as a necessary condition for the development of any country or region.

Briefs

Two New Ambassadors— The Zairian head of state, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, received the credentials of two new ambassadors on Thursday. They are Mr Albert Akoua from Congo and Mr John Kamao from Kenya. On the same day, President Mobutu held talks with Mr Gerard Franel, the outgoing ambassador of the Swiss Confederation. [Excerpt] [Kinshasa AFP in French 1438 GMT 3 May 83 AB]

NIGERIA

Further Materials on Currency Exchange Situation

Exchange Causes Traffic Tieups

AB031010 Lagos NAN in English 0950 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Owerri, May 3 (NAN) — With 3 days to the end of the currency conversion exercise, fuel scarcity has hit the Imo capital, following the refusal of petrol dealers to accept old currency notes from customers, a NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent in Owerri reports. According to a NAN survey, although most petrol stations in the metropolis suspended services and claimed they ran out of fuel, they reluctantly attend to a few customers with new naira notes. The endless and disorderly queues in the few petrol stations that accept all currencies, including the Mobil along Egbu Road, virtually stretch to main roads, leading to heavy traffic hold-ups. The survey also showed that most stalls in both old and new Owerri markets are securely locked, while taxi services declined as cabs were seen parked out of business in some residential quarters. Taxi services, which normally cost 30 kobo per drop, now range from 50 kobo to old one naira notes, depending on distance, but remain the same with new notes.

Most traders complain that they stand the risk of losing their money, in view of long queues at banks, if they accept old currencies from customers, a situation which has skyrocketed prices of commodities by between 200 percent and 400 percent in the state capital.

Border Closure Recommended

AB032005 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The chairman of the Bank of the North, Alhaji Aliko Mohamed, has suggested that Nigeria's borders and airports should remain closed during the currency exchange period to discourage speculation and trafficking. He told our correspondent in Kaduna today that the change of currency is bound to strengthen the purchasing power of the naira. Alahji Aliko described the exercise as an internal reorganization of the economy, especially currency circulation, which he said was capable of making the IMF loan irrelevant.

Courts Open on Weekends

AB031908 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The Kaduna State Government has directed all commissioners of oath to open their registries on Saturdays and Sundays from 0800 in the morning to 1700 in the evening to facilitate the current currency exchange.

Following the directive, the chief registrar of the high court, Alhaji Sadar Adamu Mumuni, has announced that magistrates and high courts would remain open on those days for the purpose of swearing of affidavits. He therefore called on the general public and private organizations, who have more than 5,000 naira old currency notes, to take advantage of the opportunity.

Difficulties Continue

AB032008 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] From Abuja comes a report that members of the public have been depositing their old notes in compliance with Central Bank directives. Our correspondent observed that long queues, usually seen at the beginning of the exchange exercise, have disappeared. When contacted, the branch manager of the First Bank, Alhaji Aliyu, said it would make the exercise easy. He welcomed the extension by 1 hour of the period of the exchange and said that the bank officials were up to the task. Another report said the department of information in Abuja has distributed specimens of the new notes to the public. The idea is to familiarize them with the new notes to avoid being duped.

Meanwhile, there have been more reports of untold hardships by people wishing to change their old naira notes. Our roving correspondent reports of how people in Kaduna to facilitate their [words indistinct]. During the banking hours, he said, people are now asked to produce two passport-size photographs to be attached to forms during the currency exchange. People are then given duplicate copies of the forms and asked to come back for their money after a week.

Workers [words indistinct] are also finding it difficult to withdraw money. There have also been allegations that the Central Bank is disbursing new currency notes irregularly and are discriminatory in the allocation. According to the area manager of the Union Bank of Africa [UBA], Dr Musa Otisha, only 6.4 million naira out of the 87 million naira received by the Central Bank from Lagos have so far been allocated to the UBA and was shared among its eight branches. He alleged that 22 million naira wereallocated to Kaduna Cooperative Bank, 14 million naira to the Bank of the North, 10.4 million to the Union Bank, and the First Bank 9.2 million naira.

Parcel Post Halted

AB032024 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[text] The Ministry of Communications has suspended with immediate effect internal parcel postal services throughout the country for the duration of the currency exchange exercise. A statement signed by the press secretary to the ministry, P. A. Baker, said that normal services would resume after the exercise.

Soldiers Assigned to Banks

AB032138 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] has directed that with immediate effect all commercial banks should not exchange more than 500 naira over the counter for anybody througout the remaining period of the currency exchange exercise. Correspon-

dent Okehi Quarcoo, who has been following the currency exchange exercise, has the report.

[Quarcoo] The minister of finance, Dr O. O. Soleye, who made this known today, said that any excess above 500 naira should be accepted by commercial banks and teller receipts issued to those with such deposits. He assured the genral public that those with such teller receipts would have their monies exchanged into the new notes at the end of the exercise.

The minister directed all schoolchildren with pocket money to exchange, especially those in boarding houses, to submit their names and monies to the principals of their various schools. Such principals, he said, should report with the list and the monies collected to the Federal Ministry of Finance tomorrow morning. This, he said, was to alleviate the suffering of the people and to ensure that all available old naira notes were withdrawn from circulation at the end of the exercise.

Although the currency exchange exercise entered its ninth day today, the normal long queues at the banks have started to thin down. However, with a reduced number of customers to be attended to, most banks prefer to accept lodgements. They claimed they had not received their new currency orders from the Central Bank. According to some customers at the banks, the reduced number of poeple wishing to exchange their old naira notes have not improved the inept attitudes of some bank officials toward their customers.

Meanwhile, some business houses and transporters have continued to reject the old naira notes while others have temporarily suspended operations. And those who do accept them hike their prices out of proportion. The Central Bank has again warned that it was illegal for members of the public, public institutions, and Federal Government parastatals to refuse the old naira notes.

In another development, four persons have so far sworn affidavits at the Federal High Court, Lagos, to support the amount of money in their possession for lodgement which is in excess of 5,000 naira. Two of them, who were aliens and managers of companies, declared a total of 170,000 naira. The third person, who declared a little over 100,000 naira, was a chief cashier of another company, while the fourth, with nearly 21,000 naira, was a trader.

An official of the court said that the court opened for business last Satruday and Sunday, but no declarant showed up. He attributed the nonresponse to the situation of the court, which he said was outside (Dansekayi), a business area of the federal capital. It was not possible to obtain the lists fron other high courts.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces personnel have been deployed to all commercial banks throughout the country. The deputy director of the Army Public Relations Department, Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Iwekor, said this was aimed at curbing numerous cases of behind-the- counter dealings and other acts of sabotage involving some bank officials. He stated that an intensive search of all bank officials and their desks would be a daily activity until the end of the current exercise.

Press Examines Exchange Problems

AB031635 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 3 May 84

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Six papers, *THE PUNCH, THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY TIMES*, as well as *THE DAILY STAR, THE NIGERIAN OBSERVER*, and *THE DAILY SKETCH* mainly examine the problems being encountered in the on-going currency exchange. The papers offer numerous suggestions on how to ease the exercise. First, *THE PUNCH* observes that the chaotic situation of the banks, if not immediately checked, will negate the objectives of the exchange. The paper points out that the old notes have ceased to be legal tender unofficially. To hasten the currency exchange, as well as lessen the problems of the general public, *THE PUNCH* suggests that other financial institutions and the Armed Forces should carry out the exchange in the barracks.

In its own contribution, *THE GUARDIAN*, after a full analysis of the problems posed by the exercise, recommends that the old notes should cease to be legal tender on the stipulated day while the closing date for the exchange is extended by 2 days. It also suggests the use of post offices and postal agencies as exchange centers. And on its part, *THE DAILY TIMES* calls on the government to effectively monitor the currency operation. The paper equally advocates the use of other financial institutions, as well as police stations and mobile banks, to the rural areas. *THE DAILY STAR* feels that with only 4 days to the end of the exercise, mobile banks, as well as dispatch treasuries, should be used for the exercise. The paper re-emphasizes the need for the creation of more counters to facilitate the operations.

In its own comment, *THE NIGERIAN OBSERVER* equally suggests that all government treasuries, cash offices, and post offices, as well as other responsible organizations, should be employed in the exercise. To ensure that the operation is satisfactorily carried out, the paper calls on the nation's security forces to exercise more vigilance.

In conclusion, *THE DAILY SKETCH* calls on the central bank to adequately supply the new currency to the commercial banks.

THE NIGERIAN TIDE, in its editorial, calls on all African heads of state to closely examine a statement by the Tanzanian leader that Africa is in danger of losing its identity because of its disunity. It says such an observation is not only appropriate but timely. For the continent to build its unity, *THE TIDE* urges African leaders to introduce programs that will give the people a sense of belonging.

Recruitment of Expatriate Doctors To Continue

AB032004 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] In Sokoto State the recruitment of expatriate doctors is to continue till enough Nigerians are available. The commissioner of health, Mrs Okpatsima Ibrahim, said in Sokoto that many Nigerian doctors have refused appointments with the state

because of the fear of being posted to rural areas. As a result, she said, foreign doctors would continue to serve in the state as long as they were willing to work in rural areas. Mrs Ibrahim announced that about 250 persons have died of measles in the 19 local government areas within the last 4 months. All the medical personnel have been drafted to the affected areas to prevent the epidemic from spreading. Mrs Ibrahim also announced that the government was considering the introduction of fees in hospitals.

SENEGAL

PRC Youth Official Arrives in Dakar 2 May

AB031000 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] Mrs (Li Yong Dong), vice president of the National Federation of Chinese Youth and secretary of the Chinese Young Comminist League's Central Committee, arrived this afternoon in Dakar for a 1-week visit to Senegal. She was met on arrival by Mr (Lopis), president of the National Council of Youth of Senegal.

UPPER VOLTA

President Sankara on Libyan Ties, Farm Reform

AU031542 Rome ANSA in English 1525 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, May 3 — "We are revolutionaries in Upper Volta. This means we stress first of all the people's ability to decide which economic and political model is necessary for the country's development," Upper Volta President Thomas Sankara said in an interview appearing today in the Italian daily *IL MANIFESTO*. Sankara led the military revolt last year that led to the ouster of rightists in the country's Army.

In a reference to Upper Volta's relations with Libya, Sankara said they are "good" and will remain so as long as they are based on mutual respect. "There remains the certainty that Libya is not Upper Volta and Upper Volta is not Libya. We have differences we want to solve in a friendly and brotherly manner," the president said.

"Revolution is the management of Upper Volta by its people," he said as he listed the salient points on which the new agrarian reform in his country is based. It will have to modernize and diversify agriculture to [words indistinct] which have always exploited the peasants and give land back to the people. This is fundamental. If the land is not owned by the people who till it, there is no incentive to improve it and introduce the needed transformations," the president concluded.

Tribunal Session Ends; Saye Zerbo Convicted

AB040912 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The People's Revolutionary Tribunal ended its eighth session in Ouagadougou last night after acquitting 8 persons and condemning 11 others.

I invite you to listen — or listen again — to Comrade Antoine (Kobissambo), president of the tribunal:

[Begin (Kobissambo) recording] Saye Zerbo, the tribunal has condemned you to 15 years imprisonement, of which 7 years are suspended. It orders you to pay 61,832,601 CFA to the Upper Voltan Government. Your properties worth that amount will be confiscated. The tribunal has issued a committal order against you and requests maximum imprisonment for the debts. A special derogatory order exempts you from banishment. Sit down.

Solange Sombiana, the tribunal has acquitted you for lack of evidence. Sit down.

Leopold Datha, the tribunal has condemned you to pay 2,736,120 CFA. Your property worth that amount will be confiscated. Sit down.

Barthelemy Kombassere, the tribunal has condemned you to 10 years in jail including 4 years (?suspended). You will pay a fine of 3 million CFA and pay back the sum of 729,000 CFA to the Upper Voltan state. You are also ordered to pay 300,000 CFA and your property worth these amounts will be confiscated. The tribunal proclaims maximum imprisonment for the debts. A special derogatory order exempts you from banishment.

Tientoure Tenga, the tribunal has acquitted you, but you will reimburse the sum of (?10,177,934) CFA owed the state by some people. The Ministry of Finance will issue an order to pay back the sums spent with no justifications. Sit down.

Yacouba Pierre Diasso, the tribunal has sentenced you to a 2-year suspended prison term, and you will pay a fine of 5 million CFA. The tribunal proclaims the confiscation of your property up to the amount and maximum imprisonment for the debts. A special derogatory order exempts you from banishment. Sit down.

Richard Zana Zongo, the tribunal has acquitted you, but an order to pay 300,000 CFA will be issued against you. Sit down.

Apollinaire Tambursi, you have been sentenced to a 1-year suspended prison term and to pay 1,387,000 CFA to the tax department. Your property worth the amount will be confiscated. The tribunal also proclaims maximum prison term for the debts. An order to pay an additional 300,000 CFA will be issued. Sit down.

Kone Ibrahima, the tribunal has condemned you to pay a fine of 20,000 CFA and to pay 90,800 CFA to the tax department. Your property worth the amounts will be confiscated. A special derogation exempts you from maximum imprisonment for the debts and from banishment. An order to pay an additional 300,000 CFA will be issued against you. Sit down.

Kouame Lougue, the tribunal acquits you but will issue an order to pay 300,000 CFA against you.

Senou Souleymane, the tribunal condemns you to a 1-year suspended term of prison with a 1-million CFA fine, orders the confiscation of your property worth the amount, proclaims a

maximum prison term for the debt, and orders you to pay an additional 300,000 CFA that will be issued against you. Sit down.

Jean Sempore, the tribunal condemns you to a 1-year suspended prison term, orders you to pay 336,250 CFA to the tax department, orders the confiscation of your property worth the amount, and orders the maximum prison term for the debt. Sit down.

Ouedraogo Kassoum, the tribunal has acquitted you, but you will be ordered to pay 300,000 CFA. Sit down.

Andre Zoungrana Koudougou, the tribunal condemns you to 7 years imprisonment, including a 3-year suspended term, fines you (?8) million CFA, and orders you to pay 156,250 CFA to (?the tax department). Your property worth these amounts will be confiscated. The tribunal orders maximum imprisonment for the debts and will issue a committal order. You will be required to pay an additional 300,000 CFA.

Bathiongo Bado, the tribunal has acquitted you, but an order to pay 300,000 CFA will be issued against you. Sit down.

Ambroise Karantenga Ouyebou, the tribunal has acquitted you,but you will be ordered to pay 300,000 CFA. Sit down.

Valentin Tabnagba, the tribunal has acquitted you, but you will be ordered to pay (?300,000) CFA. Sit down.

Michel Poda, the tribunal has condemned you to a 2-year suspended prison term. Sit down.

Gaston Gnounou Kani, the tribunal has sentenced you to 2 years imprisonment including 6 months with no possibility of remission. A committal order has been issued against you. Sit down. The tribunal has now ended its deliberations and invites you to its next sitting. [end recording] It should be recalled that all the convicts can appeal to the head of state for clemency.

New Schedules for Broadcasting Service Announced

AB031645 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 May 3 84

[Text] With the imminent end of the proceedings of the People's Revolutionary Tribunals, the new program schedules of the National Broadcasting Service, which should have begun on 21 April, are now expected to take off on Monday, 7 May. The new changes in the program schedule of our station affect primarly the time of our newscasts: The newscasts at 0630 and 0730 are maintained from Monday to Fridays, but on Saturdays and Sundays a single newscast is broadcast at 0700 instead of 0730. The major newscast at 1300 is maintained throughout the week. In the evenings, the newscast is broadcast at 1900 and 2200.

The new schedule also includes new programs of our production unit: There is a 3-hour program entitled "The Time of the Revolution" every Saturday 0900 through 1200. There is also another program called "The Life of the CDR" [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution]every Friday at 2030. There is also "Radio Conferences" which alternates with "Debates" every Monday at 2030. There are also magazine programs on national socioeconomic life which also alternate with the service friends program every Tuesday at the same time. The changes can also be seen in the rural radio programs with its debates in villages in our major national languages. To launch this new program schedule next Monday, 7 May, you can hear on that day at 2030 a debate on the National Broadcasting Service, a program during which authorities of the broadcasting service will answer questions and criticisms from listeners.

ANGOLA

Solidarity Official Criticizes U.S. Arms Race

MB030958 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The arms race being implemented by the U.S. Administration constitutes a true danger to mankind, including African peoples, particularly those harboring U.S. military bases, which turns them into forward bases of its imperialist and neocolonialist policy. This was stated in Moscow by Domingos Coelho da Cruz, chairman of the Angolan Association for Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples. Speaking at the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Soviet Association for Solidarity With the African and Asian People, Coelho da Cruz hailed the activities the Soviet organization has undertaken to strengthen relations between the Soviet Union and the African countries and liberation movements.

Demonstration in N'Dalatando Opposes Sabotage

MB031654 Luanda ANGOP in French 1330 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] N'Dalatando, 2 May (ANGOP) — (? The MPLA Party youth wing and the organization of Angolan Pioneers) held a mass demonstration in N'Dalatando, the capital of Cuanza Norte Province, on Sunday.The demonstration denounced all acts of sabotage and looting, as well as massacres, particularly the recent bomb attack perpetrated by the puppet gangs against the civilian population in the city of Huambo. The demonstrators walked the main streets of N'Dalantado city singing revolutionary songs and demanding the unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, as well as Pretoria's observance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 435/78,leading to Namibia's independence. In addition, the demonstrators strongly condemned the logistical and financial support offered by imperialism to the UNITA puppet gangs through the South African racist regime.

121 on Trial for Diamond, Currency Violations

MB031343 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Tomorrow at 0900 in Cinema Sao Joao, the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of the Province of Luanda will open the trial of 121 individuals implicated in illicit trafficking in diamonds and in illegal introduction and circulation of foreign currency in the country. The proceedings will be open to the public.

In order to better enlighten the people on the issue of illicit trafficking in diamonds and illegal introduction and circulation of foreign currency in Angola, a round table discussion took place at the Angolan People's Television headquarters. It was attended by Dr Manuel Rui Monteiro, the legal consultant of the Angola Diamond Company [Diamang]; Silverio Monteiro, Diamang's economist; (Mario Sotto Major Pizarro), the deputy governor of the National Bank of Angola; and Dr Maria do Rosario Veloso, the people's attorney of the Province of Luanda.

ANGOP Discusses Cuban 'Internationalists'

MB031524 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 03 May 84

[Text] ANGOP yesterday issued an editorial titled "Internationalist (?Presence)" which dedicates several lines to the explanation of the true reasons for internationalist aid to Angola. Internationalism, states ANGOP, becomes difficult, if not altogether impossible, to understand for those whose every action reflects interest in easy profits and who do not believe in the existence of men who risk everything without asking for anything in return. These men experience fulfillment simply because they know that they are being useful for the progress of humanity and development of the peoples.

More specifically, with regard to the Cuban internationalist mission in Angola, to which imperialism attaches a policy of linkage [preceding word in English], ANGOP reiterated that the Cuban internationalists came to our country in answer to an appeal from the Angolan people, whose independence was threatened by the invasion of two foreign armies. The ANGOP editorial also explains that internationalism, contrary to what the imperialists think, is not only military aid. Internationalism in Angola, and in the rest of the world, also consists of assistance in the fields of economics, health, construction, and education, and is a clear demonstration of what a new man should be — a man liberated from prejudice, who is free and offers his services for the good of the people without anything in return except a subsidy in national currency. In conclusion, ANGOP focuses on the immense debt of gratitude which the Angolan peole have for Cuba's heroic people. This is a moral debt which we may pay when one day we too are notable internationalists and fight alongside other peoples for the creation of a new society and a new man.

UNITA Communique on Public Executions, Cubans

MB040931 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 4 May 84

[Communique issued by UNITA Central Committee at Jamba on 26 April]

[Text] 1. As usual, the MPLA has once again launched its murderous wrath against innocent Angolans following resounding defeats in Novo Redondo and Huambo. Thus, on 24 and 25 April 1984, it ordered the public execution by firing squad of 51 members of the public in Huambo, including 2 women. It also executed by firing squad 17 members of the public in Luso, Luena, and Tete in Bie.

2. The UNITA Central Committee gives this last warning to the MPLA radical faction that the cycle of violence will increase throughout the country, for UNITA will not let itself be intimidated by those who retaliate against Angolans in revenge for Cubans.

3. The UNITA Central Committee repudiates moralistic statements made in certain Western capitals lamenting the death of Cubans who are oppressing our people and who, by their presence in our country, are frustrating our independence and

are responsible for the impasse in achieving Namibia's independence. The Angolan people, under the leadership of UNITA, will continue to fight their enemies wherever they may be, and will not ask for advice from the multinationals which are paying the Cubans who are massacring our people. In 1984 we shall confront the multinationals which only understand the language of violence.

4. After the Lusaka agreement of 4 February 1984 between the South Africans and the MPLA, the latter no longer needs the Cubans to defend against possible attacks from South Africa. The MPLA will always need the Cubans as long as it does not negotiate peace and national reconciliation with UNITA. The Cubans are an obstacle to the true peace in southern Africa. Thus they will have to be fought either with or without the approval of certain Western capitals. The struggle triumphs. United, we shall win.

Jamba, 26 April 1984, year of the anti-Cuban patriotic front.

[signed] Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, president of UNITA.

LESOTHO

Officials Visit Pretoria for Talks With RSA

MB031800 Maseru Domestic Service in Lesotho 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] A delegation of government ministers is in Pretoria for talks with the South African Government on matters of common interest. The delegation is being led by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Sekhonyane, and includes the minister of information, and broadcasting, Mr Sixishe; the minister of water, energy, and mining, Mr Matete Majara; and senior officials. The meeting, which commenced at 1600 this afternoon, is being held at the initiative of the Lesotho Government and is part of recent consultations and contacts between Lesotho and South Africa.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Receives Swazi, Moroccan Officials

MB031530 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] President Samora Machel received Richard Dlamini, Swazi foreign minister, in Maputo yesterday. At the meeting, the Swazi foreign minister delivered a special message from the queen regent and the Government of Swaziland to President Samora Machel. Richard Dlamini also announced a donation of 500 metric tons of corn by his country to Mozambique. At the meeting, the Mozambique head of state was accompanied by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano; Daniel Magaia, our ambassador accredited to the Swazi capital; and (Pedro Comissario), director of the Africa-Middle East division of the Foreign Ministry. The Swazi foreign minister was accompanied by Mr Masuku, his country's ambassador to Maputo.

President Samora Machel also received the minister of cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, who brought a message from the Moroccan monarch, in his office in Maputo yesterday. According to *NOTICIAS*, King Hassan II has sent Minister Radi to prepare for the OAU summit and to receive a direct briefing on the evolution of events in southern Africa. Present at the meeting between President Samora Machel and the special envoy of the Moroccan monarch was Colonel Sergio Vieira, deputy minister of national defense.

37 Killed, 19 Wounded in 21 Apr Truck Ambush

MB031904 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Terrorist gunmen killed 37 people and wounded 19 others when they attacked 5 civilian trucks in the northwest Mozambican Province of Tete almost 2 weeks ago. The trucks were about 40 km northwest of Tete town, on the road to Malawi, and traveling without military escort when the gunmen opened fire. The attack took place on 21 April. A provincial official said many of the deaths occurred when one of the drivers weaved off the road after realizing that the trucks were in an ambush. (Joao Rongue Singo), a peasant who survived the massacre by pretending to be dead, told AIM what happened. He said he saw women and children burned alive by the terrorists. One little girl who was bitterly crying, after seeing her mother burned to death, was killed in cold blood. Mr (Singo) was kicked by the terrorists, who also took his shoes and belt, but he feigned death successfully and survived the atrocity.

The terrorist gunmen were supported by South Africa until the signing of the Nkomati accord 7 weeks ago and increasing numbers of them have been surrendering to the authorities now that they have lost Pretoria's support and will not be receiving arms supplies. Military spokesmen in Tete and Inhambane Provinces have reported dozens of terrorists giving themselves up and dozens being killed when their bush hideouts are overrun and destroyed by the Army. However, atrocities still continue. In another incident on Sunday, 2 people were killed and 10 wounded when the terrorists attacked a passenger bus on the road from Marracuene to Maputo. A total of eight of the wounded have left hospital after treatment.

Army Reports Surrenders After Signing of Accord

MB031453 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 03 May 84

[Excerpt] The Mozambican Armed Forces have given details of recent developments in the war against terrorist gunmen who until recently were supported by South Africa. This development, including the surrender of many gunmen and attacks on their bases, follow the signing, 7 weeks ago, of the Nkomati Accord, under which Pretoria agreed to drop its support for the gunmen.

A military spokesman in the Province of Tete, in the west of Mozambique, records that 23 gunmen were killed and 3 captured in Army attacks on 2 important [word indistinct] hideouts in the first half of last month. The same spokesman said 20 gunmen surrendered to the Army in Tete a few days after the signing of Nkomati Accord.

Gunmen are also reported to be surrendering in the southern Province of Inhambane. The Army chief of operations in the province says that 24 gunmen in the province handed themselves over after the Nkomati Accord, because they had lost South African arm supplies and logistical support. Last week a report from the same province said 45 gunmen had been killed when the Army attacked and destroyed 5 of their hideouts.

NAMIBIA

Lusaka Summit of SWAPO, MPC, Van Niekerk Planned

MB031325 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1316 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Windhoek, May 3, SAPA — A summit was being planned to be held in Lusaka involving SWAPO, the Multiparty Conference, the administrator-general of SWA-Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, and Zambia's president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, according to a news report in Windhoek today. The *WINDHOEK ADVERTISER* newspaper, quoting reliable sources, said if the various parties agreed, the meeting would be held under the chairmanship of Dr Kaunda, possibly within the next 2 weeks. Asked for confirmation of the meeting, a spokesman for Dr van Niekerk's office replied: "No comment." He described the report as speculation. SWAPO and a delegation of the SWA/Namibian administrator-general, which included a number of political parties, met at a conference in Geneva in 1981, but the two sides failed to reach agreement on the future of the territory.

SWAPO's representative at the United Nations, Mr Theo Ben-Gurirab, said this week SWAPO would only hold discussions with a delegation headed by a South African official empowered to negotiate a ceasefire on behalf of his government. Mr Gurirab said SWAPO would not be talking directly to an MPC delegation. But the chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Dirk Mudge, said today that the MPC would not be prepared to enter into negotiations with SWAPO unless the MPC was recognised as an entity in its own right.

"Already the same musical chairs are being put out," the *ADVERTISER* wrote today. It added: "Some diplomats appeared to be concerned about the proposed summit, as it could be a way of South Africa of circumventing UN Security Council Resolution 435 for a ceasefire and elections in Namibia."

MPC Willing To Talk to SWAPO 'as Equals'

MB031054 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Namibia's Multiparty Conference [MPC] says it will talk to SWAPO, but only as equals. MPC spokesperson Dirk Mudge rejects SWAPO's stand that only South Africa has sufficient power to negotiate with them. Mudge was reacting to newspaper reports that talks between the MPC and SWAPO will take place in Lusaka soon. He says no definite arrangements have been made, but the MPC would be willing to talk to SWAPO on an equal footing.

Plans Made for Release of 54 SWAPO Detainees

MB031147 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1137 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Windhoek, May 3, SAPA — Arrangements were presently being made to free 54 SWAPO detainees held at Mariental in southern SWA/Namibia, the administrator-general, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said in Windhoek today. The possible release of more detainees was being investigated.

Asked to elaborate on a statement issued last night, Dr van Niekerk said the decision was taken after the completion of a security report days ago, undertaken in view of peace initiatives in southern Africa. "I sincerely hope that SWAPO will respond positively (to the planned release of detainees) and abandon its terrorist activities and engage constructively in the political process in SWA/Namibia," he said. Last October, the SWA Territory Force began investigations into the possibility of freeing SWAPO detainees, Dr van Niekerk said. After the commencement of peace initiatives in southern Africa, and following discussions with various groups, including the Multiparty Conference, instructions were issued in February to speed up the investigation.

The SWATF officer in charge of the investigation, Colonel J.F. Agenbacht (CQ), completed his report a few days ago. In view of the report, Dr van Niekerk said, he had decided to "release all those detainees who no longer pose a threat to law and order." A total of 54 detainees presently qualified for release, but arrangements had to be made in consultation with their families for their care after their release. "As soon as we are satisfied that proper accommodation is available to them, they will be released," he said. The circumstances of the other detainees were being investigated with a view to their possible release. Dr van Niekerk said he hoped the release of SWAPO detainees could contribute to peace in the region.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Meets With Lesotho Foreign Minister

MB031840 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] High level talks between South Africa and Lesotho are continuing in Pretoria. Our Pretoria news staff reports that matters being discussed are thought to include the Lesotho Highland Water Project and the question of ANC refugees in Lesotho. Earlier Radio Lesotho reported that a delegation of senior government officials was holding talks with South African officials on matters of common interest in Pretoria.

The meeting is being held at the initiative of the Lesotho Government and is part of recent consulations and contacts between Lesotho and South Africa. The Lesotho delegation is being led by the Lesotho minister of foreign affairs, Mr Sekhonyana, and includes the minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Sixishe; the minister of water, energy and mining, Mr Majara; and senior officials. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, heads the South African delegation to the talks. A statement is expected after the meeting.

Botha, Sekhonyana Decline Comment

MB031958 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] At the high level talks between South Africa and Lesotho in Pretoria, security matters and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project came in for discussion. The delegations were led by the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha and Mr Sekhonyana. The Lesotho delegation also included a number of other ministers.

Mr Botha told a news conference after the meeting that there had been open discussion of problems which had arisen between the two countries in the past week.

Neither Mr Botha nor Mr Sekhonyana was prepared to comment on the nature of the talks, but both confirmed to the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] that the Lesotho Highlands water scheme and the security situation had been discussed. Mr Botha added that both delegations would first report to their respective governments before details of the talks were released.

Mr Botha said the meeting in Pretoria had given both governments the opportunity to resolve problems, and he envisaged further talks between the two countries.

Mr Sekhonyana told the news conference that while relations between the two countries were not perfect, South Africa and Lesotho remained neighbors and should strive to achieve good neighborliness.

Immediately after the talks, Mr Botha began discussions with the delegation from Swaziland led by that country's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Richard Dlamini. The latest developments in southern Africa are expected to be discussed at this meeting.

Swazi Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

MB031726 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Our Pretoria news staff reports that the Swaziland minister of foreign affairs, Mr Richard Dlamini, has arrived in Pretoria for discussions with the government.

No Independence for Kwandebele in Near Future

MB031109 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The South African Government does not intend to make the Kwandebele homeland an independent state in the near future. That emerged in parliament yesterday when Cooperation and Development Minister Piet Koornhof said independence for the territory would still take, in his words, a considerable time.

Koornhof said a committee has been set up to look into the matter. Four members of the South African Government and four from Kwandebele will take part and they will start work as soon as possible.

SWAZILAND

Dlamini Leaves Maputo, Arrives in South Africa

MB031730 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The South African Broadcasting Corporation Radio reported in its 1800 news bulletin this evening that our minister for foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, arrived in South Africa today for talks with South African government officials. The radio did not state the nature of the talks during Mr Dlamini's secret mission to the republic.

The minister left for Maputo early yesterday morning to deliver a special message to President Samora Machel from Swaziland's leaders. The contents of the message were not immediately known. He returned home last night.

ANC's Oliver Tambo Inquires About Visiting

MB031723 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Following the departure yesterday of a 2-man ANC delegation to Maputo, a top official of the Ministry of the Interior said today that government had received a message by telex from ANC President Mr Oliver Tambo, inquiring about a suitable date for his visit to Swaziland to discuss the present ANC crisis.

ZIMBABWE

Chidzero Defends Optimistic View of Economy

MB031059 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The minister of finance, economic planning, and development, Comrade Bernard Chidzero, says there is no reason for gloom and despondency in Zimbabwe, because the economy is showing an improvement and recession is a passing phase.

Speaking at the opening of a branch of a local bank in Harare yesterday, Comrade Chidzero said Zimbabwe has already faired better than most countries affected by drought and recession. He said Zimbabwe is poised for success if everybody joined hands and remained steadfast and confident.

The minister said the government refused to reschedule its debts as a means of overcoming economic problems, because this would have damaged the country's credit worthiness internationally.

In another statement, Comrade Chidzero said the Reserve Bank will not exercise its option to purchase dual-registered shares from owners who are Zimbabwean residents.

He said companies involved have been advised to register the shares in the resident's own name and endorse the new certificates for dealings on the local markets only. The government has already announced that it is interested in acquiring external securities held by residents.

Matabeleland ZANU-PF Official Urges 1-Party State
MB031102 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The ZANU-PF chairman for Matabeleland South, Comrade Herbert Mbatanga, says the creation of a 1-party state will help end acts of banditry in some parts of Matabeleland. Speaking at a meeting at (Mzana) near the Botswana border at the weekend, Comrade Mbatanga said people should rally behind the government and not be used by power-hungry members of ZAPU.